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FOREIGN MINISTER ON MANAGUA, BRAZILIAN MEETINGS

PY132306 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1250 GMT 13 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, 13 Jan (NA) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari said here today that Argentina's claims to the Malvinas Islands were "well received" at the recent meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau.

Upon his arrival at the Foz do Iguacu airport, Aguirre Lanari said: "I am very optimistic about the results that will be obtained regarding the Malvinas Islands."

Aguirre Lanari arrived at 0300 this morning from Managua, Nicaragua, where he attended the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau.

During a chat with this special correspondent and another Argentine journalist, the foreign minister said that the negotiations he carried out in Nicaragua were "very positive."

He noted: "The meeting in Managua was very good and the priority issue that is of great concern to us, that is, the issue of our Malvinas, was well received." Aguirre Lanari did not discard the possibility that the Malvinas issue will be discussed today at noon by Argentine President Bignone and Brazilian President Figueiredo.

He added: "The meeting between the two presidents will be characterized by the cordiality and positive results that have always characterized the meetings between Argentine and Brazilian personalities. This is even more so now that our relations are at an optimum level." Aguirre said that it is "very likely " that Bignone and Figueiredo will discuss the Malvinas issue "particularly because there is an open agenda. Therefore, it is not up to me to say what issues will be discussed by the two presidents."

Moreover, Aguirre Lanari said that "there is also the possibility that General Bignone will reassert the gratitude of the Argentine people and their government to President Figueiredo for the Brazilian people's solidarity during the South Atlantic conflict."

The foreign minister, who was obviously tired after a 15-hour flight from Managua, left the airport for the "Das Cataratas" Hotel where Bignone and Figueiredo will meet today at noon.

Aguirre Lanari is scheduled to hold a meeting with his Brazilian counterpart, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro.

PRESIDENT BIGNONE RETURNS FROM BRAZIL 13 JAN

PY132135 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2123 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (TELAM) -- President Gen Reynaldo Bignone arrived at 1750 [2050 GMT] at the Jorge Newberry Metropolitan Airport after visiting Foz do Iguacu (Brazil), where, together with the president of the sister nation -- Joao Baptista de Figueiredo -- he attended a ceremony in which work on the Puerto Iguazu-Puerto Meira International Bridge was officially started.

President Bignone departed at 1610 [1910 GMT].

NOTE SUBMITTED AT UN OVER THATCHER VISIT

PY132327 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] United Nations, 12 Jan (TELAM) -- Argentina charged today at the United Nations that Margaret Thatcher's presence in the Malvinas Islands is a serious provocation and an intolerable insult to Argentina and Latin America and that they "interpret this action as a confirmation of the arrogant colonialist and expansionist policy that inspired the British military aggressions in 1833 and 1982."

The note, which was submitted today by Argentina's permanent representative to the United Nations, adds that perhaps the UK prime minister's trip, which is undoubtedly the result of an erroneous decision, presupposes that the results of the 1982 conflict are definitive and that, therefore, the British Government can prolong indefinitely its illegal occupation in the South Atlantic.

It adds: "However, this supposition is not realistic since it ignores the fact that the decolonization and recovery of the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands are a permanent and priority objective of my country. Therefore, any British attempt to perpetuate the present usurpation of these territories is intolerable."

Regarding this situation the note adds that Great Britain not only ignores the fact that the restoration of the islands to the sovereignty of Argentina is an objective that is firmly supported by all of Latin America, but also forgets that the international community refused to support the tentative result of the 1982 military conflict and thus rejected the British aspirations which are based only on the use of force.

The Argentine note states that on several occasions, Argentina has expressed its firm interest in achieving a just, definitive and negotiated solution to the sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom. "However, my government must note once again that the seriousness of numerous actions that have been perpetrated by the British Government, which has shown a persistent will to humiliate my country, have obstructed the fulfillment of UN resolutions. [no close quote as received]

After noting that Argentina has repeatedly stated that the aforementioned islands are an inseparable part of Argentina's soveriegn territory, the note adds that the illegal British colonial presence in territories that have been taken by force violates Argentina's legitimate rights, affects its vital interests and dignity, and constitutes a source of serious tension and instability in the region.

The note also states that the British Government is exclusively responsible for the dangerous situation in the area where the islands are located. Moreoever, it states that the international community will be affected by the British policy of provoking Argentina and Latin America. It also reasserts that the United Kingdom must comply as soon as possible with UN General Assembly Resolution No 37/9.

The note ends by requesting that the text be rapidly distributed as a document of the General Assembly action and that it be submitted to the Decolonization Committee as a document regarding the Malvinas Islands issue. The Argentine note is signed by Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari.

BOLIVIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES UNEXPECTEDLY

PY121542 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1510 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan (DYN) -- Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado has arrived in Argentina on an unscheduled visit.

His mission in Argentina is still unknown. Ortiz Mercado arrived last night aboard a commercial flight. He was welcomed at Ezeiza International Airport by the Bolivian ambassador to Argentina.

Allegedly Demands Debt Payment

PY131432 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan (DYN) -- Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado met today with his Argentine counterpart, Julio Martinez Vivot with whom he discussed the problems regarding the sale of Bolivian natural gas to Argentina and the Argentine Government's policy regarding the Bolivian democratic process.

Argentine diplomatic sources disclosed that Minister Ortiz requested the fulfillment of the promise made by President Reynaldo Bignone during the previous visit to this capital by the Bolivian minister that Argentina would pay, before a certain deadline, its debt of $86 million for the import of natural gas during 1982. The sources disclosed that Argentina has paid half of this debt but has failed to pay the remaining half, a situation which has "irritated" the Bolivian Government.

According to sources closely related to the Bolivian delegation, Ortiz Mercado, who arrived last night without any prior notice, has reportedly also conveyed his government's concern over Argentina's alleged support of sectors which oppose President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

Argentine diplomatic sources stated that they did "not know" whether the Bolivian minister would bring up this sort of issue but disclosed that the trip was aimed at discussing the "gas issue."

Argentina imports 200 million cubic meters of gas per day from Bolivia. The price of the natural gas is discussed periodically by the two countries. The purpose of Ortiz Mercado's trip would be to reach an agreement regarding an increase in the natural gas price and to obtain the prompt payment of the pending debt.
The Bolivian representative in this capital denied the possibility of the minister meeting with the media.

It was learned this afternoon that Minister Ortiz Mercado met with his Argentine counterpart Julio Martinez Vivot and that he had allegedly requested an audience with President Reynaldo Bignone which could have taken place at the Olivos presidential residence in the evening.

Defense Minister on Visit

PY140224 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1452 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (DYN) -- Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot asserted today that Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado's presence in Buenos Aires has to do with negotiations being carried out by the Bolivian Government to reschedule the Argentine debt, especially the amount owed for the purchase of Bolivian gas.

In statements made on the radio program "Magdalena y las Noticias," the Argentine minister categorically denied that the visit paid to him yesterday by the Bolivian minister had anything to do with the issue of the former officials of the military regime which governed Bolivia until the end of 1982 who are now exiled in Argentina. "It was purely a protocol visit," Martinez Vivot stated with reference to the meeting he held with Ortiz Mercado.

The Bolivian defense minister unexpectedly arrived in Argentina yesterday. No reports were made on the purpose of the minister's trip.

Martinez Vivot stated that the Bolivian Government is making moves "to reschedule the debt with Argentina," and is making moves especially regarding the gas issue. Martinez Vivot added that "officials of the state gas corporation, Energy Secretariat and the Central Bank are participating in the negotiations," adding that they were waiting for the arrival of the Bolivian finance minister or, in his place, of the energy minister to conclude the agreements and sign the corresponding documents. Martinez Vivot stated that since neither the finance nor the energy minister could travel due to the recent cabinet crisis in Bolivia, the Bolivian Government entrusted the trip to Ortiz Mercado following the good results of his previous visit to Buenos Aires.

"He is here as a sort of plenipotentiary minister to deal with this subject," Martinez Vivot stated, adding that the subject of the exiled officers "was never discussed during the meeting."

As for other issues, Martinez stated that the armed forces reequipment policy is a "more or less permanent" problem. As far as the compulsory aspect of military service is concerned, Martinez Vivot noted that the study in this regard should not be approached "from an emotional viewpoint."

BRAZIL DELEGATION INVESTIGATING MISSING ARRIVES

PY110057 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Jan 83

[Text] A Brazilian delegation whose members are connected with several human rights groups arrived in Argentina yesterday to gather information on 10 Brazilians who disappeared here during the military's drive to stamp out leftwing terrorism. The delegation, headed by Brazilian Congressman Fernando Moraes, will also file a joint writ of habeas corpus with local human rights campaigners on behalf of Ricardo Haidar, an Argentine who allegedly has been missing since last December 16. Moraes, acting as a spokesman for the group, stated that the delegation's activities "will not interfere with domestic Argentine affairs." The delegation also plans to meet with members of the Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) and other human rights groups.

GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS HUMOR MAGAZINE ISSUE

PY121535 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] The national executive branch has prohibited the printing, distribution, sale and circulation of issue No 97 of the magazine HUMOR. This measure was taken on the basis of the power which Article No 23 of the constitution grants the government when a state of siege is in force. The decree states that while various sectors seek the country's reorganization from its very foundations, the media continue to engage in immoral acts. It is also stated that the federal police will take the necessary measures to ensure that the mentioned prohibition of sale and distribution is enforced and that the Justice Ministry will order appropriate judicial measures to be taken against the editors and persons responsible for the aforementioned magazine.

REPORTAGE ON COB RESPONSES TO SILES' CRISIS

Sees Possible Solution

PY131424 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo will restructure his cabinet in the next few hours, according to the agreement reached with leaders of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] with whom he held a meeting lasting 1 hour and 20 minutes at Government Palace today, Wednesday. Reliable sources said that three ministers will be removed from their posts, namely the interior, migrations and justice minister; the agriculture and peasant affairs minister; the information minister, and perhaps one more.

COB Secretary General Oscar Sanjines Rodriguez, who is also an active member of the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP], gave the following report to the news media when he left the palace:

[Begin Sanjines recording] I would say that this has been a very important and very useful meeting. Mistakes have been (?pinpointed) and very strong intentions of rectifying them have been expressed. There has been total agreement among all COB leaders, the cabinet members, the representatives of the parties forming the UDP, the vice president and the president, also the national UDP leader, to defend, strengthen and consolidate democracy and to move toward objectives which will be much more beneficial for the Bolivian people.

Among the conclusions we might mention that the national UDP Executive Committee will start functioning, according to a demand from all the parties, as a center for analyses and decisions in order to better guide a united front policy, taking into account suggestions from the COB, all the parties and all progressive revolutionary currents among the Bolivian people with one single goal: to advance, to work and to overcome the crisis.

There has also been an announcement of the restructuring of the cabinet, a restructuring which should express the desire of the Bolivian people for a more coherent cabinet working in a much more coordinated way, taking into account, however, the constitutional prerogative of the president to appoint the ministers and make all the decisions pertaining to the government. [end recording]

The top Bolivian labor organization has become mediator of the problem that has emerged within the UDP and has played a highly important role at the government level. Sanjines Rodriguez said in reply to questions by newsmen that the COB continues to maintain its political independence vis-a-vis the constitutional government of the UDP front and the parties forming that front.

[Begin Sanjines recording] The president has repeated that he intends to offer government participation to the COB. We will hold consultations within the organization, but I can tell you in advance that I know the attitudes of the COB leaders: We will participate in the democratic process but not in the government. [end recording]

Will Resist Any Coup Attempt

PY131832 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Bolivian Labor Federation leader Noel Vazquez said this morning that he will resist any attempt to stage a coup against the current democratic process taking place in the country.

He made that statement while referring to a charge made to the press by former President David Padilla Arancibia to the effect that a new coup d'etat was reportedly being prepared. Certain discharged officers and some sectors of civilians displaced from power are said to be involved.

Noel Vazuuez said that the working class will resist any retrogressive attempt to destroy the process which was imposed by the workers.

May Stage Strike

PY140316 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0243 GMT 14 Jan 83

[By Juan Javier Zeballos]

[Text] La Paz, 13 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- The powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) might decree a national strike to apply pressure for a solution to the political crisis within the Bolivian Government. The possibility of finding a solution to the crisis appeared to have disappeared today.

In statements made to journalists, COB Permanent Secretary Noel Vazquez stated that in view of the ministerial crisis brought about by the resignations submitted by the six ministers of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) -- one of the coalition members -- cabinet ministers should resign out of dignity and loyalty.

This will enable President Hernan Siles Zuazo to reshuffle his cabinet. A reshuffle of the cabinet is the most important measure to permit the crisis to be overcome, the COB leader stated. I hope they will not force the COB to decree a general strike until all the ministers resign from their posts, the union leader stated.

The political crisis which seemed to be virtually solved yesterday, today suffered an apparent setback after Oscar Sanjines, secretary general of the COB rectified some of his previous statements. [not further specified]

Sanjines said yesterday that during the meeting that Siles Zuazo held with the COB Executive Committee and with leaders of the three parties making up the UDP (Popular and Democratic Unity) coalition, the president promised that he would restructure his cabinet as a formula for solving the coalition's political crisis. However, speaking to reporters, Vazquez stated today that during the meeting held with COB and UDP leaders yesterday, Siles Zuazo had promised that he would make changes in his cabinet.

In view of the contradictory rumors about the measures that were adopted yesterday by the president, the COB, and the governing parties, the main union of workers has announced that within the next few hours it will release an official communique that will clarify the situation.

The remarks made yesterday by Sanjines indicating that the restructuring of the cabinet would occur during the next few hours, because it is a demand of the people and of the organized working class, presupposed that the political crisis of the UDP had virtually found a path toward a solution. But the clarifications that have been made known today seem to indicate a backward step in the negotiations and that the problem has stagnated.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Deputies today urged the executive branch to resolve the crisis within the shortest possible time in order to guarantee the interests of the Bolivian people. The Chamber of Deputies has indicated that it is concerned over the prolonged crisis that is placing the consolidation of the democratic process in danger.

REPORTAGE ON FIGUEIREDO-BIGNONE MEETING

Brazilian President's Speech

PY131742 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1338 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Speech delivered by Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo in Porto Meira in a ceremony marking the beginning of construction of a bridge over the Iguazu River -- live]

[Text] Your Excellency Gen Reynaldo Bignone, president of the Argentine nation:

The beginning of the construction of the international bridge over the Iguazu River once again proves the spirit of cooperation which inspires friendship between Brazil and Argentina. It reflects the capability of our people who are devoted to fulfilling common interests.

By uniting the Argentine and Brazilian borders on the Iguazu River the bridge will contribute to the development of the area at a material and human level and will stimulate the exchange of goods and increase travel between our countries.

This is neither a casual nor isolated initiative. It belongs to the common desire of the nations of the region to broaden and strengthen their physical integration. The linking of our transporation and communications networks reflects our firm determination in achieving regional economic development and stronger ties between our people.

The convergence of three national borders and the willingness of those persons who live here shows a strengthening and diversification of the traditional links of friendship and cooperation among the countries involved, thus foreshadowing an auspicious future for the region.

Mr President: The binational project which starts today as well as many other important projects were planned and materialized within a framework of the best understanding. With this same spirit our government and that of the Republic of Paraguay signed here in 1979 an agreement which points out the convergence of interests between the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric projects.

These initiatives have promoted ideal development with equal advantages for all the parties. Our cooperation is seen in a package of bilateral agreements signed during the visit I made to Buenos Aires in May 1980 and carried out during the past few years, a package which includes the Brazilian-Argentine Joint Commission, created to build this bridge.

We have placed particular emphasis on the interconnection of land transportation systems of the two countries. In the past Argentina and Brazil built the bridges over the Uruguay River linking the cities of Uruguayana with Paso de los Libres. The bridge over the Iguazu River will represent new ties between the two countries. Electrical connections and, opportunely, important Brazilian-Argentine hydroelectric projects will take place on the Uruguay River.

Moreover, an agreement for the connection, supply and exchange of electricity between Brazil and Argentina will be signed today. I will witness the signature of this contract with great pleasure, convinced that it represents another promising initiative of our reciprocal cooperation process.

The behavior of our countries proves their firm intention of confronting the challenges of the current international situation which are the result of the economic crisis which has greater impact on the developing countries.

Mr President: Brazil and Argentine honor their traditions by showing courage at the present time and confidence in the future. Our countries are determined not to be stopped by difficulties and will persevere in the effort to seek a better future for our peoples. I have confidence in our success. We do not lack the courage or the capability of achieving our objectives.

The ties created between Brazil and Argentina surpass bilateral relationships. Throughout the contacts we have maintained, we have always kept in mind our position as Latin American nations that have continuously held solidarity as one of the elements of their progress.

The episodes which during the course of last year involved Argentina in the South Atlantic drove us to make clearly visible statements of solidarity. With this same spirit we have advocated the need for a negotiated solution to this issue such as I asserted during my speech to the UN General Assembly. By doing so we have once again demonstrated that we do not regard solidarity as rhetorical, as something which lacks the will to be renewed and perfected. The Brazilian-Argentine solidarity, creative and reproductive, is a dynamic reality experienced with the desire to increasingly enrich our relationship. This, Mr President, is the meaning of this ceremony which asserts our fraternal coexistence and the high values which have inspired and will continue to inspire our everlasting friendship. [applause]

Argentine President's Speech

PY131749 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1345 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Speech delivered by Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone in Porto Meira in a ceremony marking the beginning of construction of a bridge over the Iguazu River -- live]

[Text] Mr President: Your Excellency could not have chosen a better opportunity for inviting me to discuss with you issues that are of great interest to our nations. A better symbol of this meeting than the construction of this bridge would be difficult to find. This undertaking fulfills a justified aspiration of the region of Misiones. This is an undertaking that will give impetus to our bilateral trade. But above all, this undertaking will unite our people and it will be another point of direct and permanent contact between two nations that need each other and complement each other in a natural and spontaneous manner.

Our two countries, which have the same spiritual, geographical and cultural roots, and which share the same ideals of peace and development for Latin America, have well-defined national characteristics. But if we are able to reconcile them, it will be of great benefit to our two nations and to other Latin American sister nations. But moreover, Mr President, because of the time in which this construction is being undertaken, this bridge also symbolizes a new stage in the history of Latin America.

The difficult times that my country has recently experienced have clearly shown the imperious need to unite efforts aimed at achieving a greater political spectrum and a more powerful voice to make our just claims in the international concert of nations. The numerous signs of solidarity that Argentina received during a yet-unfinished struggle for restoring its territorial integrity and eradicating the last vestiges of an arrogant and obsolete colonialism from its territory have shown the entire world the strength of our common Latin American roots.

This brotherhood will grant a renewed thrust and maturity to the relations of Latin American nations within the framework of the principles of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other nations, the equal rights of states and the peaceful solution of controversaries. In an ever-more interdependent world, regional cooperation is becoming more and more an imperious need.

This is so, first of all to jointly evaluate the effects of this increasing interdependency on regional and national development. Second of all to determine possible courses of action to overcome the restrictions imposed by foreign policies that are not always in keeping with the development and well-being of our nations. Regional cooperation is the only effective path that will enable each and every country in our area to increase its negotiating capacity, multiply its potential, improve its resources, defend the prices of its products, promote development and establish the proper conditions so that our nations and government may build a Latin America that is integrated both spiritually and physically.

This is precisely the objective of the construction of this bridge.

Over 35 years have passed since the Paso de los Libres-Uruguayana Bridge was inaugurated. Too long a time has passed since another undertaking that physically integrated our nations has been inaugurated during a period characterized by development. I believe that the fact that we are near the Parana River, where a hydroelectric undertaking that will unite even more our two countries with the Republic of Paraguay, enhances this ceremony.

It took us time to reconcile our interests to carry out this magnificent project. There were projects and initiatives that suffered the consequences. Nevertheless, maturity has enabled us to open new paths. This bridge is precisely the new symbol of the united destinies of our two nations. In sum, we are making considerable developments in bilateral cooperation: new treaties have created new possibilities and there are several projects along this path.

After 2 years of negotiations we were able to draft a contract for the interconnection of the electric systems of our two countries. This contract will be signed this afternoon. Moreover, this was followed by bilateral cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. However, because of the serious economic crisis affecting the world, we should increase our efforts leading to the cooperation and integration of our countries.

In keeping with this ideal, we believe that the binational work group that was established during the Paso de los Libres presidential meeting should find new and specific economic and technological areas of cooperation between Argentina and Brazil.

In this modern world that is filled with challenges, we can proudly say that there are nations that are sure of themselves and that have confidence in the future. Nations that prefer action over stagnation and cooperation to selfishness. These are nations that are ready to build a bridge, to link electrical systems, to jointly exploit the resources of those rivers they share, to develop the use of nuclear energy for peaceful objectives and to increase bilateral trade and orient it to other markets through complementary programs.

Mr President: The Argentine people have closely followed the election process that was carried out in your country last year. Undoubtedly, this event is one of the greatest achievements of your administration. This process is also underway in Argentina. Shortly after I assumed the presidency, I said something that I reassert today: My only aspiration is to be the last Argentine president not elected by the will of the people.

It is the sovereign will of our two nations to build a bridge over this river since they believe that geographic proximity should be complemented with mutual integration and cooperation. We pray to our lord that the magnificence of the continent we inhabit will always encourage us to build a happy destiny for our two nations in keeping with our national interests.

Communique Issued

PY132211 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2039 GMT 13 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Foz do Iguacu, 13 Jan (TELAM) -- Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone and Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo released a press communique today at the end of their talks. The Brazilian president reiterates in that communique his support for Argentina's legitimate right to sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. The document also says that during their stay in Puerto Meira the two chiefs of state presided over the ceremony marking the construction of a bridge linking Puerto Iguazu in Argentine territory and Puerto Meira in Brazilian territory, spanning the Iguazu River.

It notes that during the working meeting, which was characterized by a very cordial and frank spirit, the presidents had talks on bilateral, regional and world topics of common interest with highly positive results. The communique notes that the two presidents emphasized with satisfaction the excellent state of Argentine-Brazilian relations and the auspicious prospects for their development as the result of contacts between different sectors in both nations.

According to the communique, the presidents expressed their satisfaction over the beginning of the construction of the Puerto Meira-Puerto Iguazu bridge, which is destined to contribute to ever closer relations and a convergence of interests between Argentina and Brazil. The press communique also states that the two presidents expressed satisfaction over the contract on grid interconnection and mutual supply of electricity which was signed today, and that they noted the special importance of that contract in the context of closer Argentine-Brazilian relations. The two presidents noted in the document that the increasing efforts at cooperation being made by Argentina and Brazil in this regard are even more significant in the light of the economic difficulties the two countries are experiencing within the current international crisis. In this regard, the two presidents made special reference to the promising prospects for the expansion and strengthening of Argentine-Brazilian relations through an increasing interrelation between the interests of corresponding sectors. They referred in particular to areas such as economic, trade and financial exchanges; complementary actions in the industrial and farming sectors; transportation; tourism; joint hydroelectric projects; exchange of information on river behavior and meteorological conditions; gas supply; science and technology; activities under the Antarctic Treaty; use of nuclear energy for peaceful ends; education and culture.

The two heads of state agreed that solidarity among the Latin American nations, which are linked by an array of traditions, affinities and common aspirations, is of vital importance. The two presidents admitted that the continuous strengthening of solidarity will enable the region to attain higher levels of prosperity and well-being, and to strengthen its potential to trade with developed countries more quickly.

As for the Malvinas Islands issue, to which President Bignone referred, Figueredo reasserted his support for Argentina's legitimate rights to sovereignty.

Figueiredo also recalled the contents of his speech at the 37th UN General Assembly Session on 27 September 1982, and underscored the importance of the resolution approved on this topic at that international forum during the same session.

It was reported that President Bignone expressed his gratitude for the hospitality received during his stay in Brazil, and that he invited President Figueiredo to hold another working meeting in Argentina soon. President Figueiredo accepted the invitation, adding that the date deemed most suitable for the meeting would be established through regular diplomatic channels.

The two presidents concluded by expressing their confidence in the overall development of Argentine-Brazilian relations through frank and constructive bilateral talks held in an atmosphere of brotherly friendship, understanding an mutual respect.

PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO RETURNS TO BRASILIA 13 JAN

PY132250 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Excerpt] At 1500 [1800 GMT] the two presidents headed for the airport where President Figueiredo bid goodbye to President Bignone who departed for Buenos Aires at 1610. Fifteen minutes later, at 1625 [1925 GMT] President Figueiredo and his entourage returned to Brasilia [from Fox do Iguacu].

AIR FORCE MINISTER, OFFICERS ON CRASHED MISSILE

PY112028 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Jan 83 p 9

[Text] Brasilia -- Air Force Minister Brig Delio Jardim de Matos said yesterday that he will wait for the results of investigations in order to make a well-founded statement on the case of the intercontinental missile that was found in Maramhao. He added that Brazilian Air Force officers have started investigations, and they are now on their way to the site where it was found. The air force minister said that "through the investigations we are going to objectively evaluate the degree of risk that was involved, based on concrete data." The minister added that a missile can pose a serious problem as it comes down on a given location because theoretically it could have an atomic bomb.

He then emphasized that "the data gathered in the investigations must be evaluated properly to either admit the seriousness of the case or to recognize that it was not as serious as one might suppose."

Another brigadier said yesterday that the seriousness of the problem posed by the missile found in Maranhao is only relative, since it did not carry any equipment for warfare. The same brigadier, who admitted that it was an unmanned vehicle (plane, rocket or missile) that was found, said that the U.S. Government may provide some information on this question "once the origin of the object is identified." According to him, providing such information is an international tradition, particularly among air forces, and among countries in general. Such information can be provided through the Foreign Ministry. When the facts are made public, the country which is responsible for the equipment advances explanations without waiting for any request. The brigadier said that, in his opinion, the equipment crashed in Maranhao due to faulty control or to a technical flaw. He added that it is possibly a prototype which Brazil could make a technical examination of and decide not to return, although this was unlikely if the U.S. Government should request its return.

FORMER CONGRESSMEN FORM 'INFORMAL GROUP'

PY140107 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Dec 82 p C3

[Text] A group of former congressmen from the National Party [PN] who had announced that "we will get organized" in order to recommend economic and political solutions has been described by former PN Deputy Victor Carmine as an informal group made up by members of the democratic right, but open to other sectors in the quest for "national unity."

The performance of Congress in the past was defended in the document which made the announcement. The document was signed by former Deputies Agustin Acuna, Anibal Scarella, Gabriel de la Fuente, Victor Carmine, Engelberto Frias, Mario Marchant, Hardy Momberg, Silvio Rodriguez and Fernando Romero.

Contacted by EL MERCURIO regarding the document, Victor Carmine said: "The declaration is meant to sound like 'this is enough.' There are many people badmouthing politicians and we are tired of it." He indicated, however, that the signers do not form an organized group, but are members of the democratic right who seek national unity in order to find solutions to the current crisis. He said: "We decided to show our concern about the country's affairs in an active way, because we see the future as being dark. This is a widespread sentiment that can be noticed every day."

In Carmine's opinion, the country is in the midst of a political, economic and moral crisis, and therefore a democratic consensus should be sought, "a radical change in personalities, style and economic policy." He noted that the government is confronting a period of crisis. However, he added, the armed forces's intervention was "the only possible alternative to Marxism." But now the problem has to do with a "timetable," he said. Carmine then elaborated: "The people want order, freedom and democracy, not a return to the past, to chaos; rather they want this to be civilized in the broadest sense."

Referring to the old arrangement of political parties, Carmine stressed that "it must be changed around." He said that the PN is in fact dissolved and that the political current should open itself to other sectors, although no organized initiative has been taken to that end.

Anibal Scarella said in turn: "We are not involved in political affairs; the government is. We are just an informal group trying to foresee possibilities for the future." Scarella then explained that the signers of the document do not represent the PN, which dissolved because "it really went into recess." He emphasized that no formal contacts with other groups have been made and no future meetings are planned. Scarcella added: "We simply have an inclination for public service. We will study possible solutions to the crisis and then present them to the general public, the government and other sectors."

BRIEFS

INFLATION RATE FIGURES -- According to the National Statistical Institute, the consumer price index for December increased by 1.2 percent. Therefore, the accumulated inflation rate for 1982 totals 20.7 percent. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 5 Jan 83 PY]

GENERAL OFFICERS PROMOTED -- An army public relations bulletin has reported that three brigadier generals have been promoted to the rank of major general. They are: Maj Gen Luis Prousing Shwartz; Maj Gen Osvaldo Hernandez Pedreros and Maj Gen Enrique Valdez Puga. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Jan 83 PY]

MINISTER DENIES DEADLINE ON BORDER TALKS

PA131249 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Bogota -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said this afternoon that the Colombian public has grown weary over the delay in reaching a settlement with Venezuela on marine and submarine areas, but denied that he has set a 1-year deadline to settle the controversy. The minister was answering a news report -- not by CARACOL -- which attributed this statement to him over the weekend. The alleged statement was answered this morning by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, which described Colombia's attitude as illogical.

Lloreda said the truth is that the negotiations with Venezuela can only be resumed a year from now, after the new government of that country is elected and assumes office: I added that a period of 1 year to resume negotiations was not excessive in such a long process, but that it would be worthwhile to make a last effort (through) direct negotiations before looking for alternative solutions. I did not set a deadline for this new round of talks, but did say that the Colombian public has grown weary about finding a solution.

OFFICER DENIES ARMY INVOLVEMENT WITH MAS

PA131302 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1841 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Bogota, 12 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- A Colombian Army commander today denied the charges made by three captured members of the so-called Death to Kidnappers (MAS) clandestine group, who have accused the army of training the organization to eliminate guerrilla leaders.

Gen Ernesto Lopez, commander of the 5th Military Brigade stationed in Bucaramango, issued a communique denying the charges.

The three members of the group, who are currently in prison accused of the murder of a civilian last year, told the Permanent Committee for Defense of Human Rights that army officers recruited, trained and armed the organization. While making their statements, which were broadcast by a Bucaramanga radio station, the three men said that the army was using MAS to wipe out guerrilla leaders.

The communique issued by the 5th Brigade commander states that "these are ill-intentioned statements that carry the hidden purpose of involving the armed institution."

Police sources have described MAS, the organization that claimed the deaths of more than 100 people last year, as an organization created by drug traffickers to defend their families and property from alleged threats of kidnapping and extortion by guerrilla groups and common criminals.

The military have always denied any ties to MAS, despite charges by leftist politicians and insurgent group leaders.

MAS has also claimed the arrest and transfer to civilian and military authorities of guerrillas wanted by the law for alleged involvement in kidnapping cases.

It was learned today that Col Gil Sanchez, the Colombian Army officer whom the three men mentioned as being the liaison with "MAS directors," is currently in Washington on a special mission.

The government has publicly committed itself to unmasking the MAS leaders.

REPORTAGE ON SHINING PATH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

Terrorists Arrested, Materiel Seized

PY132352 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Members of the Sinchi [special antiguerrilla troops] and the Civil Guard raided the town of Acos Vinchos and after a house-to-house search arrested some 20 alleged terrorists who were found with dynamite, bombs and fuses.

This is the first time since the antiterrorist struggle started that the police forces have carried out a massive arrest of alleged terrorists.

Acos Vinchos is located 50 km east of Ayacucho.

The arrested persons are being heavily guarded. They are being taken to the Civil Guard barracks from where they will be transferred to the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) for interrogation.

A spokesman for the Civil Guard disclosed that the members of the Shining Path terrorist group had left two sticks of dynamite in each house in Acos Vinchos so that the inhabitants could halt any police action.

At the same time it was confirmed this afternoon that members of the Sinchi went to Chumbez, 160 km from Ayacucho, where they clashed with terrorist commandos.

Two Wounded in Shootout

PY131453 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] One member of the Civil Guard and an extremist were wounded during a spectacular shootout which took place in [name indistinct] of the agrarian production cooperative [word indistinct]. The identities of the two wounded persons were not revealed by the police.

After the shootout, 10 extremists were arrested. Among the arrested persons was (Oscar Alarcon) from whose home a large quantity of dynamite, modern arms and flags bearing the hammer and sickle were seized.

The police have not disclosed details of how the shootout started between members of the Civil Guard and extremists nor the circumstances in which the extremists were caught by surprise by members of the Civil Guard.

Havana on Guerrilla Group Clashes

PA131303 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] In Lima, Peruvian Interior Minister Fernando Rincon has ruled out any possibility of a dialogue between the government and the clandestine armed orgnaization Shining Path, which mainly operates in Ayacucho Department. Rincon made the statement during the funeral of a policeman who died during a Shining Path commando group attack against a telecommunications station on Saturday.

According to reports, two members of Shining Path died and another was wounded during a clash in Tumbes District, Ayacucho. Six other members of Shining Path fell to police in Cangallo Province, Ayacucho Department. An additional 100 members of the Republican Guard arrived Tuesday in the departmental captial of Ayacucho to join the 4,000 policemen and troops who are already there to fight Shining Path.

HAVANA REPORTS ON TRIALS OF PEASANT LEADERS

PA112321 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] A provincial Peruvian district attorney today demanded 10-year prison terms for the 54 peasant leaders of ICA Department who were tried, on the basis of a government decree, for participating in a national agrarian strike. The 54 leaders of the National Agrarian Confederation were tried for alleged damages to the state and society caused by the strike held 26-27 November 1982.

Another 69 peasant leaders of the same department were also accused of the same crime and are being tried in another case. The National Agrarian Confederation demanded an end to all the trials of the peasant organization's leaders. Trials are now in progress in several areas of Peru. The confederation is also calling for negotiations with the government to solve the problems that caused last year's strike.

U.S. COPPER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ON STRIKE

PY072237 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1630 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 7 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Peru will lose approximately $3 million a day during the general strike started yesterday by 4,7000 miners and 250 office workers of the U.S. company Southern Peru Copper Corporation, which exploits 70 percent of Peru's copper mining sector.

A spokesman for the Labor Ministry said that the strike, which was declared illegal, will have catastrophic consequences for the Peruvian economy, causing the country to lose some $3 million for each day of the strike. The spokesman told REUTERS that the strike began at 1230 GMT yesterday (0730 local time), and that in 1982, Southern's estimated production was 256.1 tons [as received], representing 70 percent of Peru's overall production.

Peru obtains 54 percent of its currency through the mining sector. In 1982, a price slump caused the sector's income to fall by approximately $600 million, a decrease equal to 30 percent of the sector's overall income.

PRESIDENT PLANNING OFFICIAL VISIT TO VENEZUELA

PA131310 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Over the next 48 hours, President de la Espriella will analyze the draft program of activities for his upcoming 3-day official visit to Venezuela, slated for 16 through 18 January. The director of public relations and information of the presidency, (Jose Hernandez), today said a mission of Panamanian experts will be returning within the next 48 hours, bringing the draft program. The presidential spokesman did not reveal how many people will accompany the president, but announced his departure Sunday for the Venezuelan capital. This will be the president's fourth trip abroad since he assumed power on 31 July. He has visited Costa Rica, the United States and Mexico.

According to an announcement released today in Lima, Peru, President de la Espriella will again visit Venezuela this year to attend a presidential meeting on the occasion of the bicentennial of the birth of liberator Simon Bolivar. (Pedro Carmona), member of the Cartagena Pact, today announced in Lima that the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela will meet on 24 July in Caracas, Venezuela, to commemmorate the bicentennial of the birth of Bolivar. He added that there will be a previous foreign ministers' meeting to draft an agenda.

PRESIDENT CONCERNED ABOUT BANANA LABOR CONFLICT

PA131519 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 83 p 1

[By Vladimir Sandoval]

[Excerpt] In an exclusive interview with LA PRENSA, Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella yesterday described the serious labor conflict between the Chiriqui Land Company and its workers as a problem of "vital importance" for the country's development. De la Espriella said that "the national government is currently working very hard to solve the problem in the banana plantations of Puerto Armuelles. The thing is that we are not going to speak about what we are doing but what we accomplish." He added that meetings are being held with the Chiriqui Land Company as well as with the workers because the problem in the Banana plantations is of vital importance for the country.

Asked about the possibility of a campaign to destabilize the national economy on the part of extreme leftist groups, President Ricardo de la Espriella said: "I do not think that the leftist sectors are responsible. We always blame the leftist groups or the workers when they demand something that they think is just. We must analyze the problem before blaming someone. We are not interested in who is guilty or innocent; this is a problem of national interest and of vital importance that must be solved analyzing the existing situation," the president said.

The president said that if the Chiriqui Land Company closes operations in Puerto Armuelles, the losses to the national government would be very serious. He agreed with Agricultural Development Minister Frank Omar Perez, who has indicated that "Panama would be greatly affected; $240 million a year, 12,000 unemployed and $60 million in wages." The serious labor problem between the Chiriqui Land Company and its workers reached a low point on Tuesday when the transnational company announced the closing of three more plantations, increasing to 14 the number of plantations closed and leaving 3,000 workers unemployed.

COSTA RICA

MONGE DENOUNCES ORTEGA STATEMENT AS 'INSULT'

PA140206 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] The statements made by Commander Daniel Ortega at the nonaligned meeting, in which he accused Costa Rica of participating in the conspiracy against Nicaragua, have been described by President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez as an insult to our country.

He reiterated that this is part of the smear campaign against Costa Rica in which tactics like those used by the Nazis are being used. Accusing Costa Rica, which has given proof of its peaceful and democratic bent, of being involved in a conspiracy with the United States is nothing but falsehood, the president added.

Commenting on the nonaligned meeting being held in Managua, President Monge said that it has been distorted, because Nehru and other strugglers in that movement wanted its countries not to join any of the blocs or world powers. Notwithstanding, the president said, the nonaligned are now aligned with one of the world powers, the Soviet Union, to attack another, the United States.

Monge Alvarez was clear in stating that he struggled for the Nonaligned Movement for a long time [words indistinct] that, well-oriented, the movement could be of benefit to the developing countries.

The possibility that Costa Rica may resort to international organizations to confront the attacks from Nicaragua is greater now, in view of Ortega's accusations at the nonaligned meeting. President Monge said that the government is considering asking for intervention by international legal bodies in view of this international [word indistinct]. He noted that the attack by Ortega Saavedra comes from a government leader of a neighboring country and that this is nothing more or less than open aggression.

MONGE SENDS MESSAGE ON NICARAGUA TO CASTRO

PA131555 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] San Jose, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has disclosed that he has sent Cuban President Fidel Castro a message, through a mutual friend, asking him to restrain the Sandinists in their campaign against Costa Rica.

Monge said this is the third time he has sent messages to Fidel. Last year he sent two messages clarifying the Costa Rican situation and the state of relations with the Nicaraguan Government.

The president's emissary this time was former leftist Deputy Marcial Aguiluz, who traveled to Havana a few days ago.

The Costa Rican president stated that Castro is very badly informed on events in Costa Rica and that to update the reports Castro might have, he has first of all told him that "the conditions for terrorism and guerrillas do not exist in Costa Rica, despite what they think in Managua."

Monge challenged Castro to show that if he really wants peace, as he proclaims, he restrain the Sandinist campaigns against Costa Rica, inside and outside Nicaragua.

"The attitudes of the Nicaraguan rulers should not be supported by either Havana or Moscow, because while Castro and Andropov (and previously Brezhnev) insist on dialogue to achieve peace, Managua does just the opposite against Costa Rica," the president said.

Monge believes that the Sandinist strategy against the Cost Rican Government will fail, because "the world knows that this is a country without any army, respectful of the affairs of other nations and with a traditionally peaceful spirit."

MONGE SETS EUROPE TRIP, ANTI-MARXIST CAMPAIGN

PA131317 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Cost Rican ambassadors to European countries will meet soon to chart a strategy aimed at counteracting the discrediting campaign which Marxist groups are carrying out against Costa Rica.

The intention would be to use the country's resources to distribute material with general information on Costa Rica, so as to change the image which has been depicted in those countries through a multimillion dollar campaign. The meeting will be held several weeks ahead of a visit President Luis Alberto Monge plans to make to several European countries during mid-1983, it was reported.

The visit Monge has scheduled for Spain, Italy, the Vatican, France, Belgium, the EEC, Sweden and Germany [not further idenitified] would crown the work of the ambassadors. Monge will brief the heads of state of those countries on the current situation in Central America and the great threats Costa Rica has had to contend with. In addition, he will provide the European media with all kinds of information to clear up the misunderstanding which has been provoked by the smear campaign against Costa Rica.

POLICE ARREST ANTI-SANDINISTS IN BORDER AREA

PA131313 Paris AFP in Spanish 1459 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Liberia, Costa Rica, 12 Jan (AFP) -- It was officially confirmed that Costa Rican officials who are carrying out an operation against the anti-Sandinist gangs that operate in the border area have arrested 11 armed men and confiscated several FAL rifles and military material.

The police found a training camp for some 200 counterrevolutionaries on Cerro Cacao and raided a farm in Los Angeles, some 40 km from the border, where they arrested the 11 men.

Col Rodrigo Rivera, who is in charge of the northern command, said that two police commando groups totalling 134 men have been carrying out an operation in the area since early yesterday morning to evict the anti-Sandinist groups.

EL SALVADOR

MILITARY APPOINTS NEW COMMANDER FOR CABANAS

PA140354 Panama City ACAN-EFE in Spanish 0211 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Salvadoran Military Command appointed Col Salvador Rodriguez Murcia the commander of Cabanas Department, replacing Lt Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, who led a rebellion from 6 to 12 January. Rodriguez Murcia was the former transit general director in San Salvador.

It was unofficially learned here today that Lt Colonel Ochoa Perez will be assigned as a Salvadoran representative at the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington. He announced his rebellion upon learning of his appointment as military attache to the Salvadoran Embassy in Uruguay.

COLONEL OCHOA GIVEN ASSIGNMENT IN WASHINGTON

PA132049 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1955 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 13 Jan (LATIN-REUTER)-- Informed sources said today that Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, the commander who led a 5-day mutiny in the northern Cabanas Department, will be attending a course at a famous military college in Washington.

The sources added that in compliance with the agreement reached in several meetings with Salvadoran military commanders, Colonel Ochoa will go to Washington to study at the Inter-American Defense Board, one of the six U.S. war colleges.

An assignment to the Washington war college, where courses usually last a year, is considered important among Salvadoran military men, in sharp contrast to an assignment to Uruguay, a country that is of very little importance for El Salvador. The agreement that ended the mutiny demonstrated that drastic measures against the 40-year old commander who had rebelled could have brought about divisions within the armed forces and its 24,000 members.

FMLN REPORTS OCCUPATION OF SAN FRANCISCO MORAZAN

PA131242 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 23 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] The FMLN has taken the town of San Francisco Morazan in Chatatenango Department. We repeat: The FMLN, your revolutionary army, has taken the town of San Francisco Morazan in Chalatenango Department. Our comrades from Chatatenango tell us that on 10 January the FMLN advanced on enemy positions in San Francisco Morazan, Chalatenango, and the dictatorship's forces showed their low morale by surrendering.

Our people seized 29 rifles from the dictatorship's forces and took 27 more prisoners; soldiers and 19 paramilitary troops. Our source adds that the troops of the regime who were wounded in this operation were released. We have been informed from San Francisco Morazan, Chaltenango, that this town continues to be in the hands of the FMLN. This information was provided by Commander Dimas Rodriguez.

GUATEMALA

HONDURAN PRESIDENT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA131247 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2111 GMT 12 Jan 83

[News conference held by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova at the conclusion of his visit to Guatemala City; place not given -- live]

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct] past months and it is the border problem between your country and Nicaragua. Nicaragua has accused Honduras of preparing an invasion, along with the United States, to overthrow the Sandinist regime. The second question is whether you, Mr President, believe that the charges being made by the Sandinists have any validity.

[Answer] First of all, that statement shows some lack of knowledge. We do not have any border difficulties with Nicaragua, since that was resolved by the ruling of King Alfonso XIII of Spain.

Second, as I told one of the UPI correspondents in the Presidential Office, ever since the months of September, October, November and December of last year there has been talk of a process of invasion from our country, Honduras.

I told that correspondent that 1983, 1984 and 1985 would go by and, if God allows it and gives me life, I will relinquish power on 27 January 1986, and that campaign of biased misinformation that claims that Honduras is trying to invade a neighboring country will be fully proved to be false. Honduras respects the self-determination of peoples and does not meddle in their internal affiars. However, we the Honduran people, my government and the armed forces are guided by the constitutional principle of defending the territory's integrity and sovereignty.

Don't worry, Mssrs journalists, there will be no invasion of any kind from Honduras. I think you have been misinformed in this regard, and I reiterate that Honduras has no territorial border problems with the sister republic of Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, my name is (Carlos Bonilla) of the Telepress Newscast of Guatemala's Channel 8. I would like to ask: What are the reasons for your visit today and your meeting with President Rios Montt? My second question is: What is your government's position regarding Guatemala's claim to the territory of Belize?

[Answer] Well, first of all, as I said today, ever since I landed at La Aurora Airport in this dear, second fatherland of Guatemala -- and you may believe I say this sincerely -- there again flourished within Suazo Cordova memories of this dear Guatemalan homeland. I was deeply moved after greeting President Rios Montt to have embraced and shaken the hand of my former fellow students of the school of medicine and recalled the life of a university student, which I think is the best life. To me this day will be unforgettable, and I hope that it will not be my last visit to Guatemala. We are friendly, neighboring, brother countries; and to visit will further strengthen our links with the sister Republic of Guatemala. I have faith and confidence in the ability and intelligence of his excellency President Efrain Rios Montt and know that he will follow all the procedures of international law, in view of his commitment to peace, so as to resolve the problem with Belize. As we have also said, we have relations with the people of Belize. Therefore, I am confident that the Guatemalan Government will resolve its dispute with the sister Republic of Belize in conformity with international law.

[Question] Good afternoon, Dr Suazo. I am correspondent of Reloj Radio of Costa Rica. I would like to ask two questions. It was said here in Guatemala that more than to sign a joint declaration with the Guatemalan president, you were coming to give thanks specifically for the government's effort in achieving the release of your daughter Xiomara. Second: What efforts will the Honduran Government make to restore the damaged Central American unity?

[Answer] First of all, I have already expressed in Tegucigalpa through the spoken and written media my recognition to all the countries in the world, to all the men and women who extended moral support to me during the time to which you refer in which my daughter had been kidnapped. I told President Rios Montt that Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president of Honduras, would retain his presidential dignity and would honor all the measures and steps taken by the Guatemalan Government. Of course, as soon as I learned of the release of Dr Xiomara Suazo Estrada, I immediately expressed to him my appreciation for all that he had done in that situation of conflict.

As I said, it was a situation of conflict for a president and for a father. However, I said to God; thy will be done, because the dignity of the presidency had to be maintained, and I could not meddle in Guatemala's internal affairs.

On the matter of the unity of the Central American peoples, I believe that mutual respect and understanding among the various countries should be a basic tenet. We show respect in order to be respected, and I believe that is the position of the other Central American countries.

[Question] Mr President] Mr President, (Enrique Male) of the "direct contact" newcast. The sister country of El Salvador is experiencing a crisis, especially within the ranks of the armed forces, due to the rebellion of a military commander. How does your government view this action in El Salvador, and what consequences could this action bring about in Central America?

[Answer] First if all, I am the Honduran president, and according to the Constitution I hold the office of commander in chief of the armed forces. This is a problem of military hierarchy and discipline that has to be solved by the corresponding Salvadoran military authorities. I would answer this question with pleasure if this were happening in Honduras, and I would tell you how President Roberto Suazo Cordova as commander in chief of the armed forces would act. He would issue the appropriate orders to the chief of the armed forces, Brig Gen Gustavo Alverez Martinez, who is here with us.

[Question] Mr President, [words indistinct] of the "Vision" newscast. I would like to ask about the Honduran economic and financial situation, and how would you describe the Honduran balance of payment situation in regard to Guatemala?

[Answer] When we took power, Honduras, as all the other countries experiencing a real economic crisis, [was experiencing] a great disequilibrium in the balance of payments, especially because of the drop in our exports due to the tariffs placed on these export products. We have done everything possible to alleviate this situation, and in November we signed a loan with the IMF in the amount of approximately $150 million to help our balance of payments. As I said, this is not only a problem in Honduras but a worldwide problem because of the economic situation. We have adopted drastic austerity measures such as decreasing the spending of the central government organizations and decentralized institutions by 10 and 15 percent. I do believe that this year will be a critical one, but we have faith in the capability of the officials that support me; and with the understanding of the social, political and economic sectors we will be able to get Honduras out of the current economic situation it is experiencing.

We have most cordial relations with Guatemala, not only diplomatically but also commercial. We spoke with President Rios Montt about a meeting between the economy ministers to study the bilateral trade agreement with the sister country of Guatemala.

[Question] Mr President Suazo Cordova, (Cordavo Monruiz) of "Patrullaje Informativo" and Servicio Centro Americano de Noticias. In view of the possible birth or rebirth of subversive groups in your country, have you requested greater military support from President Ronald Reagan?

[Answer] In the first place, there are no subversive groups in the country. During my political campaign, with the responsibility as a citizen and later as the president of the country, I affirmed, not only in Honduras but also to the foreign press, that President Suazo Cordova, aware of the historic responsibility, must strengthen and must modernize our armed forces to defend our territorial integrity, or sovereignty, protect the peace and tranquillity, and to strengthen our democratic system.

There is a military aid pact with the U.S. Government signed in 1954. It is a decree that is still being enforced, and I believe that there is no crime in Honduras modernizing its army and I ratify this before you. This is the way President Suazo Cordova feels. We have to modernize our armed forces because they, together with the people, are the support of our democratic system and the means of protecting peace, tranquillity, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Not because I happen to be a Honduran, but our country is very intelligent; a people who see what is happening in Central America. There have been attacks, there have been kidnappings of businessmen and hijackings, but with the government's firm attitude and with the support of the people, the armed forces -- and above all, with the blessing of God, in whom we have faith and absolute trust -- we have overcome those difficult moments. Please rest assured that I feel Honduras will continue on the same path.

[Question] President Suazo, (Cristobal Colon) of "Aqui el Mundo." Before you took power your country experienced a difficult time. There was coup after coup. Do you believe democracy has been consolidated in your country, or will you be the one to consolidate it?

[Answer] Honduras is currently undergoing a consolidation process. Our armed forces demonstrated this to the world and to all countries when they guaranteed the elections, guaranteed the free and honest elections, during which the people voted and placed their trust in me. Our country is currently undergoing a process of consolidation of its democratic process. For some countries this is a tough bone to swallow, because for them it is not a good example that here freedom is respected, human rights are respected and everyone can say what they please, even if this means insulting the president. Rest assured that our armed forces, together with the Honduran people, will strengthen our democracy that will serve, and it is serving, as an example for the rest of the countries of the world.

[Question] I am [name indistinct] of PRENSA LIBRE. In 1981, when Guatemala was about to solve the delicate Belize problem, Honduras unexpectedly said that it had rights over the Zapotillo Cays. What is the position of your government regarding these Cays?

[Answer] This is established in the Constitution that was approved in January 1982. As I have noted, we will use peaceful means through international law to clear up this matter. This is established in the Honduran Constitution.

[Question] I am (Carlos Nusay Morales) of "Actuality" newscast. It has been said that the United States has put its eyes in Honduras as a base to counteract subversion in Central America. What is the truth about this?

[Answer] Honduras will not be a base for any action of invasion against any neighboring country or any other country. Honduras doesn't believe in sending troops as other countries do, which I don't think are being criticized and which do send troops to other continents. The United States, with which we have close relations, is our friend and has never made such an insinuation. And the day it insinuates this, you can be certain that it will be rejected with the same dignity we have used in running our administration. Therefore, I tell you that Honduras is not the base of operations for any movement of destabilization against any government.

[Question] My name is [name indistinct]. A few minutes ago you said that the Central-American situation is strife-torn. Do you believe that a summit of presidents (?is needed)?

[Answer] I have already explained the procedure. First there has to be a meeting of foreign ministers, which could involve Central American foreign ministers. There was a foreign ministers' meeting in October when we established the Forum for Peace and Democracy in Costa Rica, and efforts are being made to expand this meeting with the participation of other foreign ministers. I believe that the foreign ministers must hold talks first. I think that you know about my reply to a friendly invitation made by their excellencies the presidents of Venezuela and Mexico regarding a meeting of presidents. I believe that things should go step by step and this is what we have said.

[Question] [Name indistinct] of "Teleprensa" of Guatemala. Certain media reported today that you met with Rios Montt and Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana in Esquipulas, on the border with Honduras, in the early morning today. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] Well, I can tell you that at 0600, President Suazo Cordova was reading the Psalms in the Bible. Of course I had been up since 0500 when I was listening to newsman (Juan Bosco Campos), who was giving a report on my visit here to Guatemala. Approximately at 0715, the foreign minister, the presidential secretary and the chief of the presidential guard arrived. I am giving you a chronological account of what I did. Therefore, what is being said is just rumors that spread around. I have not met with Magana. The only president I've met with here is his excellency President Rios Montt. So please tell whoever told you that President Suazo Cordova was reading the Psalms at that hour.

[Question] The Guatemalan President wants to form a Central American Community [words indistinct].

[Answer] The policy in Central America should be regional. The desires of the Guatemalan president are praiseworthy. I understand that in due time we will discuss this meeting, which must be expanded in order to have the Central American countries discuss their own regional problems. We don't need other forces which you already know about, which bring foreign and exotic theories and which are trying to poison the souls and affect the Central American nationality, to come here and meddle in the internal affairs of Central America which must be solved by the Central Americans.

PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PA131914 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Report on 12 January press conference held by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt following departure of Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova; place of press conference not given]

[Excerpts] Following the Honduran president's departure from Guatemala, President Rios Montt thanked Guatemalan newsmen for their coverage of the visit.

President Rios Montt said later that the fact that the United States has appointed an ambassador to Belize is of secondary importance deserving no comment on his part.

[Begin recording] [Question] [by unidentified correspondent] Do you care to comment on the U.S. Government's appointment of an ambassador to Belize?

[Answer] No, I don't care to comment on that.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The U.S. Government's stand does not worry us too much because of a number of Latin American countries, (?which we know) to have similar problems to ours have done it; they have recognized Belize without sending in any ambassadors, but then that is a secondary matter anyway. [Words indistinct] by the United States is also a matter of secondary importance. We maintain the litigation because there is no border. [end recording]

Still on the subject of the conflict over Belize, President Rios Montt said categorically that under Guatemala's new policy on this problem, his government would be satisfied with a part of that territory, more specifically, with an outlet to the sea on the side of Toledo.

[Begin recording] [Rios Montt] There is a very particular situation concerning Belize; it turns out that under the Law of the Sea, which is currently being approved in a number of conferences, there are certain limitations. If we recognized Belize, from a tactical standpoint we would become a landlocked territory without any outlet to the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, we (?have neither recognized) British Honduras nor do we plan to recognize it in the future.

[Question] I don't think that represents any change [in Guatemala's stand]

[Answer] There is a very big difference; in the past we were claiming the entire territory, now we are not.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] That is how it must be. [Passage indistinct]...the entire concept has changed. We will view it from both an ethnical and a geographical standpoint, as well as from the standpoint of our security. Toledo is what Guatemala is claiming.

Further on, President Rios Montt said that the U.S. Government's decision to lift its embargo on military aid to Guatemala is really no help, since any purchase made must be paid for in cash. The president added that due to the lack of foreign exchange, his government has not decided to buy weapons from the U.S. Government. On the contrary, he said, if it were possible, Guatemala would buy tractors, seeds and other agricultural supplies.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Rios Montt]...economic (?to buy) tractors, seeds and, what's the name of those things used to feed plants?

[Several voices respond] fertilizer.

[Rios Montt] Fertilizers and agricultural supplies. That would be very useful.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I don't have any money to buy weapons, and (?I said that this is not aid) since I will pay cash. I don't have any money, so what do I want with this? I have no foreign currency. (?That is a condition) and we don't have any foreign currency, so we can't buy weapons. That is no aid; it is merely a market that has opened.

We must [word indistinct] in a different way. We must find a different way. I think this time we got [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The Guatemalan president said he can't yet say when he will relinquish power, in answer to a question on whether this would occur in 1985, as Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola said recently.

[Begin Recording] [Question indistinct]

[Answer] I can't yet say when. I myself asked why they had said 1985 instead of 1984. You see what I mean? I don't like to lie. I'm being placed in an uncomfortable situation since I am going to tell the truth to the Guatemalan people. The truth is that on 23 March 1983 we will place very clearly defined laws at the people's disposal. This will provide us with a constituent assembly which in turn and within (?the process) will gradually provide us with a timetable for the solution of our political problems. [end recording]

General Rios Montt also said that at the next election, groups of socialist persuasion will be able to participate as long as they do so through the vote.

[Begin recording] [Question in progress] ...policy banning acceptance of either the candidacy or the registration of a party of socialist persuasion?

[Answer] I think that in a democracy every tendency must have an option, as long as this is done through votes rather than through bullets. Through the use of bullets, nobody will have any rights. [end recording]

Rios Montt also announced the possibility of annulling the political parties prior to 23 March, when new political laws will be promulgated. [Begin Recording] we are studying this. I think it would be advisable, but the possibility is currently being studied. We will computerize the names of all Guatemalan citizens entitled to vote. You can present a political party and we will computerize it. If an individual wants to go back on his decision, we will annul his (?committee). [Words indistinct] [end recording]

President Rios Montt also said there will be more political parties and that there is the intention to create a legal instrument enabling the people to choose the future president who best suits them.

[Begin recording] We think the current administration's purpose is not to turn its back on a people who deserve respect. We are working in order to guarantee to the people the validity of their opinions. We will create legal instruments to allow Guatemala to choose whatever president they want. We will create the necessary bodies to ensure justice and respect. [end recording]

Demands on Belize Cited

PA131931 Paris AFP in Spanish 1818 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Guatemala, 13 Jan (AFP) -- Guatemalan President Gen Efrain Rios Montt today announced that he "has adopted a new position" on the problem of Belize but that "at no time are we going to recognize the independent state."

Rios, whose government renews negotiations on the subject with Great Britain on 24 January, explained that Guatemala now demands only the return of "the district of Toledo, so that it will become part of our territory."

Guatemala had demanded the former British colony as its own for more than 100 years, Rios said, and we have always sought a peaceful solution with Britain.

Nevertheless, in the past, the Guatemalan Government demanded the return of all the Belizean territory, something which "has now changed," according to the president. "We want the district of Toledo," he explained, "so that it will become part of our territory."

He added: "At no time are we going to recognize the independent state of Belize, because in reality there are no borders. Guatemala will be left without an outlet to the Atlantic and it will maintain its demand until a definite solution is achieved," he said.

The president said that Guatemala will no longer demand all the territory of Belize, an English-speaking country with heavy Afro-Caribbean influence, because the problem "must be viewed from the ethnological, geographical and security viewpoint."

Moreover, he indicated that with the abolishing of the country's constitution with the 23 March coup, the provision which defined Belize as an integral part of Guatemala was also abolished.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo recently announced that Guatemala and Great Britain will begin a new round of talks on the subject on 24 January in New York.

LABOR REPRESENTATIVE DENOUNCES U.S. AID PROGRAM

PA121750 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Interview with (Antonio Garcia Fernandez), Guatemalan Labor Party representative to Cuba, by Pedro Martinez Pirez, on 11 January in Havana -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is your opinion of President Reagan's recent decision to resume military aid to Efrain Rios Montt's regime?

[Answer] I think the decision confirms our belief that U.S. military aid was never suspended; it was only channeled through other governments. It is no secret that the Guatemalan Government, particularly the army, has received military aid from Israel, Taiwan and some Latin American governments, including the training of Guatemalan troops. Chilean, Israeli and U.S. advisers are present in the repression and genocide against the Guatemalan people. The media have denounced this, and the U.S. Government's recent action only makes official what it was doing through others.

[Question] What is you opinion of President Reagan's belief that the Guatemalan regime has made some progress in human rights?

[Answer] This is certainly a joke, especially given the recent reports of clandestine graves. The truth is that repression in rural areas has increased and violence continues throughout the country, which disproves what they are trying to make the U.S. people believe about President Rios Montt being a pastor of the gospel. That is not true. What we have in Guatemala is unrestrained genocide by the Guatemalan Army against the Guatemalan revolutionary movement.

[Question] Luis Cardoza y Aragon, the famous Guatemalan author and president of the Guatemalan Patriotic Unity Committee, recently charged that more than 20,000 persons have died in the 11 months of the Rios Montt regime. What do you say about this?

[Answer] Those figures prove the magnitude of the repression unleashed by the Guatemalan regime. The figures would be higher if we included the massacre of the Indian population in the western and northwestern highlands and other places of which we have no reports.

[Question] It has been said that some 40,000 Guatemalan peasants have fled to Mexico to escape repression in rural areas in your country. Can you tell us something about this?

[Answer] It is true. The Mexican and international media have been reporting this. It is a fact that the peasants have had to abandon their homes and take refuge in Mexican territory to escape from the government's genocidal policy. They have done this despite the poverty, hunger and hardship they must face in fleeing to Mexico.

[Question] To what extent is the unity of the Guatemalan leftist force a key factor in the struggle against the Rios Montt regime?

[Answer] It is obvious that the Guatemalan regime's main adversary is the revolutionary movement, which has to present a united front against the regime. When the Rios Montt regime carries out its massacres it does not differentiate among the organizations. In this respect, the response of the Guatemalan revolutionary movement should be unity to show the Guatemalan people the path they must take for their total liberation.

HONDURAS

BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO PAY 'WEEKEND' VISIT

PA121608 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Jan 83 p 32

[Excerpt] After stating that Honduras is not a member of the Nonaligned Movement, Paz Barnica said: "We hope that the conferees at the meeting in Managua will act objectively and democratically while analyzing the regions' problems and that their deliberations will be directed toward real peace and democratization for those countries lacking the same."

The foreign minister said that, taking advantage of the presence of several Latin American foreign ministers in Managua, the Honduran Government invited several of them to visit Honduras and that the Bolivian foreign minister is expected to visit this weekend.

The foreign minister said that "much work to improve the image of Honduras at the international level will occur this year," and he announced that he will travel to Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia.

He also said a meeting is scheduled in Panama this year to again analyze the Forum for Peace and Democracy, which was created in Costa Rica last year. "I believe all Central American and Caribbean countries should be present at this meeting," the foreign minister added.

In conclusion, the Honduran foreign minister said he will meet once again with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena this week. "We will sit around a negotiating table to discuss the border problems; we foreign ministers will preside over the meeting." The foreign minister did not disclose where the meeting will be held but did say it will be somewhere quiet, where work may be done in peace.

COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT 29 JANUARY

PA131311 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Jan 83 p 9

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez is scheduled to arrive in Tegucigalpa on 29 January in response to an invitation from the government, Rafael Lopez Garrido, Costa Rican ambassador to Honduras, confirmed yesterday.

The announcement was made by the Costa Rican diplomat following a meeting he held with President Roberto Suazo Cordova to reciprocate the latter's visit to him last week. According to Lopez Garrido, Volio Jimenez will arrive in Honduras in late January and stay the weekend in Tegucigalpa, at which time he will be honored by President Suazo Cordova's administration in recognition of his efforts to establish peace in Central America.

NICARAGUA

ARGENTINE MINISTER ADDRESSES NONALIGNED MEETING

PA131220 Managua International Service in Spanish 1713 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Speech by Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari at the Fifth Special Ministerial Meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau at the Ruben Dario Theater in Managua -- live]

[Text] Mr Commander General [as heard], foreign minister and other Nicaraguan authorities; mssrs representatives and authorities of the Coordinating Bureau; foreign ministers, observers and other assistants; ladies and gentlemen:

In the first place, I deeply thank you for the honor granted to me by my colleagues to speak on their behalf representing the entire region. In assuming such distinguished representation, I thank the Nicaraguan Government and people for the great effort they have made to make this important meeting possible and for all the attention given to the participating delegations.

Please allow me to express personally my satisfaction at being in the sister Nicaraguan nation, the land of Ruben Dario, one of the greatest Spanish-speaking poets and the one who had the greatest influence on the Argentine and Latin American poetry of the early 20th century. How can we not recall him here today. How can we not recall the songs of life and hope that he made for the America of the great Montezuma and the Incas; the America that shakes from hurricanes and lives from love.

Gentlemen: The participation of the Latin American countries in the task of the Nonaligned Movement was and continues to be determined by the basic principles and goals of this movement, whose validity is confirmed on a daily basis because of the increasing importance of our group of countries in international affairs. It must be recalled that the Nonaligned Movement represents the legitimate effort of almost 100 countries to preserve their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in a world dominated by a global conflict between the superpowers and the policy of power that is generally practiced by highly developed states to the direct detriment of our countries.

As it is rightfully mentioned in the basic documents of this movement, the achievement of world peace implies the establishment of a world political and economic order that is just and democratic. This just and democratic order can only be achieved through the disappearnace of the confrontation between the superpowers; the suspension of expansionist and aggressive policies by certain states; the definite eradication of racial discrimination; the suspension of apartheid; the elimination of that crime against humankind which, according to the correct description of the United Nations, is colonialism; neocolonialism; imperialism; and all forms of foreign occupation and domination.

These are the basic goals that determined and justified our countries' presence in the Nonaligned Movement. Mr chairman, the big powers should understand that if the structure of the international system does not change substantially in the future, the Nonaligned Movement will continue to fight and to be fully effective as an instrument to preserve and promote the interests of the smaller powers and the developing countries.

In addition, the permanence and evolution of this movement -- bearing in mind the variations of its influence, which may decrease or increase -- will continue simultaneously to reflect a desire to avoid any unjust ties of dependence, as well as to preserve the firm intention to make the best effort possible to participate in the course of world affairs.

Mr chairman, I also want to reiterate the support of our countries for the movement's stance concerning certain conflicts. Regarding this, we are deeply concerned about the attitude of certain governments which, despite the repeated calls by the international community, insist on implementing policies that go against the declarations and decisions of our movement, the UN Charter and the resolutions issued by the General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

Within this context, the serious situation in the Middle East is obviously one of the main sources of our concern. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year and the brutal massacre of Palestinian civilians in West Beirut were incidents that we have already vigorously condemned. At the same time, Latin America has noted that Israel must withdraw from the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and that the Palestinian issue is the main reason for the Mideast crisis.

Regarding this, we have repeatedly stated that the Palestinian people must exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence, as well as form their own national state.

We are also concerned about the situation in southern Africa, where the justly criticized apartheid regime and the continued occupation of Namibia by South Africa constitute a threat to peace and international security.

Our countries have maintained a clear and consistent position regarding these two issues. Jointly with most member countries, Latin America has repeatedly condemned the intransigent attitude of South Africa and has backed the struggle against racism and colonialism in Africa, agreeing from the beginning that the international pressure on Pretoria must be accompanied by UN Security Council measures in order to eliminate all regimes of racial discrimination and to obtain an unconditional and true independence for Namibia.

Mr chairman, there is a topic that moves us particularly and profoundly because of reasons of continental brotherhood. I am referring to the critical situation that Central America is experiencing. This situation is particularly caused by political destabilization, violence and the constant threat of war among sister nations. We want to note before this movement, especially here in Managua, that the profound causes for the crisis we are mentioning lie in anachronistic political and socioeconomic situations, constant violations of the principles of nonintervention and noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states, as well as slanted views in the fight for world power. In view of this, the Latin American countries reaffirm our position of unalterable adherence to the full respect for the principle of nonintervention. This principle is not only included in international law but is a basic postulate of the nonaligned member countries that is vital for respectful political understanding among nations.

From the very beginning, this has been the spirit that was present in the support of most Latin American nations for the noble proposal of Mexico and Venezuela and for other peace proposals for the region that have already been mentioned and which we openly back because this regional crisis is threatening the unity, solidarity and peace of Latin America.

In like fashion, our countries are willing to support any other initiative which, like this one, might receive the backing and solidarity of the Nonaligned Movement, just as four Latin American countries stated at Contadora Island in Panama a few days ago.

In this era of pluralism and diversity, our main task is to find, in negotiations, the authentic common elements that guarantee peace, security, national independence and territorial integrity for Latin America, because during the Malvinas crisis it was proven in our region that certain defensive mechanisms can no longer be invoked because they have lost their effectiveness. This diversity and pluralism determine more than ever the need to preserve the principle of nonintervention and noninterference as a guarantee for reciprocal respect among states. Any form of interventionism is definitely a threat to peace and security in the hemisphere, which are already in jeopardy recently.

Mr chairman, we are making these remarks because the problems that Latin America is facing are not limited to a difference in opinion among states of the region, because an important part of the crisis being experienced by our nations result from policies and actions of countries from other geographical areas who, disregarding law and justice, continue to view our continent as a fertile area for their expansionist and colonialist adventures. Consequently, our countries are not only suffering the negative effects of a world economic order that is obviously unjust, but are also targets of the military adventure of foreign powers, and are experiencing the despoilation of part of their territory, the foreign exploitation of the natural resources, and the establishment of foreign military bases in their home soil.

Of course, we know that this critical situation is not exclusive to Latin America. This situation is also suffered, sometimes with very dramatic characteristics, by other regions represented in the Nonaligned Movement. The existence and struggle of our movement are clearly justified because of the global nature of these evils and the need for a common solution.

Mr chairman, I cannot forget to refer to the international economic outlook that is confronting a crisis whose depth and duration render useless the remedies used in the past to solve the increasing commercial and financial imbalances.

This somber outlook, characterized by a standstill in the world's economic growth and in its trade, a large unemployment rate, spiraling inflation, an increase in the protectionism of developed countries, a deterioration in the terms of exchange, an uncontrollable increase in the foreign debt, among others, is harshly striking our region, particularly affecting the possibilities for development in Latin American countries and their effective participation in the solution of the biggest and most controversial international problems. Truthfully speaking, we cannot achieve a full political decolonization without having an economic decolonization.

To this we must add a stubborn resistance by many developed countries to a dialogue; noncompliance with their obligations; and a new and definite trend -- to exert political pressure through embargoes, sanctions and other forms of economic coercion that sometimes turn against those who practice them.

The use of unilateral measures or restrictions agreed on by the powerful states to interfere in the internal policies and the decisions of the developing countries has been and must continue to be condemned by our movement.

Mr chairman, unfortunately because of reasons you already know, I won't be able to remain with you to the end of this meeting, because I must be present at a meeting between the president of my country and the Brazilian president.

For this reason, I have no other opportunity to tell you in advance about the invitation that the foreign ministers will get to attend the meeting of the Group of 77 which will be held in Buenos Aires in late March and early April. Your presence in Buenos Aires will be an honor for my country and your participation will be of vital importance for the goals of that meeting. [applause]

In addition, on this last opportunity that I have to speak at this meeting, I must inform my colleagues of the movement about the evolvement of a vital topic for Argentina and of great importance for Latin America; the Malvinas issue.

Between 31 May and 15 July 1982, my country attended the previous ministerial meeting of this bureau held in Havana while our soldiers were fighting the military and colonial aggression of the United Kingdom, which had the decisive help of powerful allies. On that occasion my government recalled the dangerous consequences which could result from reinstallation of British domination over the islands, not only for our country but for the peace, the security, the independence and the development of all the states of the region.

Now, the reinstallation of a colonial regime founded on a massive and disproportionate military presence intended for domination of the South Atlantic, constitutes an inadmissible manifestation of the political and military expansion of an extraregional power. In other words, this is a repetition of experiences already known by the nonaligned countries, which have been repeatedly the victims of military aggression by the big powers.

In Havana we again received the ever-present support of the Nonaligned Movement just as in Lima, Peru, when in its final declaration of 30 August 1975 it stated; the nonaligned countries -- without detriment to the principle of self-determination as a basic principle for other territories -- in the special and particular case of the Malvinas Islands, firmly support the just Argentine claim. They urge the United Kingdom to actively continue the negotiations recommended by the United Nations in order to restore this territory to Argentine sovereignty and to put an end to this illegal situation which still exists in the southern cone of the American continent.

The movement's support for Argentina's rights was reiterated in every declaration and communique of the conferences and summit meeting held; from Colombo, Sri Lanka, in August 1976 to Havana, Cuba, during the ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau between 31 May and 4 June 1982. At this latter meeting, the Nonaligned Movement recalled that the struggle against colonialism in all its forms is a basic principle of nonalignment, and in addition confirmed the decisions of previous conferences and meetings of the movement. In this way, the group ratified its firm solidarity with Argentina in its efforts to put an end to the colonial and anachronistic presence on the Malvinas Islands.

In conclusion, during the meeting of nonaligned foreign ministers and chiefs of delegation held in New York 4 - 9 October 1982, the movement completely ratified its previous statements and, in addition, requested the participation and the good offices of the UN secretary general in order to reach a just and peaceful solution of the Malvinas issue as soon as possible.

Because of all this, and because of this extraordinary historical and political understanding shown in the Malvinas cause, my country has a debt of honor with the Nonaligned Movement, whose continued firm support for Argentina's sovereignty over the islands and whose solidarity with our people during the South Atlantic crisis we cannot forget.

Therefore, on behalf of the Argentine people and government I want to again express our deepest recognition and permanent gratitude to the peoples and governments represented here. [applause]

Now it is already obvious, even for the British Parliament, that the sending of the so-called punitive fleet was not truly aimed at defending the inhabitants of the island. It was a clear reaffirmation of British military power and imperialist policy, which internally [word indistinct] the influence of the Royal Army and now led to the establishment of a powerful offensive military base affecting the security of our country and the peace of the South Atlantic.

Regarding this, I must note that the British Government just ratified, through the publication of a white paper, this militaristic and colonialist policy which it plans to continue applying in regard to the Malvinas Islands. For this reason, it has given particular importance to the island's defensive capacity. The United Kingdom, among other measures, foresees the permanent presence of large naval units in those territories and adjacent seas. They have nuclear submarines, destroyers, frigates and other ships which have been equipped with nuclear weapons.

In addition the British have reinforced air and ground military units and provided pertinent support with equipment characterized by the highest and most sophisticated technology. All these decisions and measures disclose that the British Government, as it has already evidenced diplomatically, is not planning to resume negotiations on the future of the island or to decrease its overwhelming military presence in those territories.

Furthermore, as a result of this presence, the British have carried out several harassment actions. More than 100 actions have been carried out so far by British warships and planes against Argentine fishing boats inside and outside the so-called protection zone, with a radius of 150 miles imposed illegally, arbitrarily and unilaterally by the United Kingdom in Argentine waters.

Meanwhile, on 3 January, barely over 1 week ago, we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the invasion and occupation of our island by British military forces, thus consummating the act of usurption and colonialism we are still suffering.

My country has just sent a note to the UN secretary general expressing its willingness to support all the efforts of the top international official to comply with the provisions of Resolution 37-9 to definitely solve the dispute over the sovereignty of the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands as the only way to put an end to the colonial situation in these territories.

However, contrasting with the peaceful and negotiating attitude of my government and in a new act of colonialism, arrogance, provocation and insulting disregard for the recent Resolution No 37-9 approved by the UN General Assembly, the British prime minister just went to the Malvinas Islands.

Mr chairman, nobody can be deceived here any more. This action, as was recently stated in remarks I appreciate, constitutes a painful insult to the peaceful desire for negotiation for which 90 member countries voted on 4 November at the highest international forum. The fact that the British prime minister intentionally made her presence on the islands coincide with this ministerial meeting -- which will surely and without opposition ratify Argentina's rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands constitues an offensive contempt for the Nonaligned Movement. [applause]

However, Mr chairman, the only thing she accomplished with this trip is to further strengthen our firm will to be sovereign over the islands and to confirm, personally and once and for all, that 12,000 km is too long a distance to continue to have imperialist and colonialist aspirations over a territory that, as the Nonaligned Movement recalled, belongs to my country because of indisputable historical, geographic, legal and political reasons.

For this reason, we expect the understanding, solidarity and support of the Nonaligned Movement in our struggle against the colonialist oppression of the United Kingdom. Mr Chairman, the Latin American countries fully identify themselves with the ideals of the nonaligned countries, whose destiny they share and whose increasing presence in international politics is one of the best guarantees to reach its goals of peace, justice and development, the only right way for a world that will otherwise march toward its inexorable destruction.

All that is left for me to do is to express, on behalf of my country and my Latin American colleagues, our hope and confidence that these ideals, goals and objectives will be ratified with specific proposals and actions at the upcoming meeting of chiefs of governments to be held in New Delhi. Thank you, Mr chairman. [applause]

AQUIRRE LANARI DEPARTS NONALIGNED MEETING

PY130054 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0003 GMT 13 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Excerpt] Managua, 12 Jan (TELAM) -- In an atmosphere of disgust over the recent visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the Malvinas Islands and amid attempts by the United States to sabotage deliberations, the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau opened here today.

Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari was charged with talking on the conference central topic, the problems of Latin America. In doing so he stated that the attitude of Mrs Thatcher is a direct insult to all Latin America which is today more than ever unified in the struggle against colonialism.

After ending his speech, Minister Aguirre Lanari headed for the Managua International Airport and boarded an Argentine Air Force plane which will take him to Brazil to attend the meeting of President Bignone with President Figueiredo scheduled for tomorrow.

MALMIERCA ISSUES WARNING IN NONALIGNED SPEECH

PA131740 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Latin America and the Caribbean need their own organization which, without interference foreign to the region, will serve as a forum for the analysis and discussion of their problems and will enable them to organize their own views that will serve both for confrontation and dialogue. This was stated by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca during the inaugural ceremony of the Fifth Special Meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau in the Ruben Dario People's Theater.

Malmierca categorically rejected the attempts to link the problems of the region to the East-West conflict, and he warned that those who use that argument will find it very difficult to explain what the British fleet was doing attacking Argentina in the Malvinas Islands, or what is the objective of the U.S. military advisers and the CIA financing of the counterrevolutionary groups that today attack Nicaragua.

He stressed that the Malvinas War showed that the United States used continental defense resources in its favor at the same time that it promoted plans of aggression against Nicaragua and was working to establish conditions for an open military intervention in El Salvador. Thousands of former Somozist guardsmen, with the open support of the United States and the Honduran Government, are trained, armed and organized to attack Nicaragua, Malmierca said.

The Cuban foreign minister asked: What right does the U.S. Administration have to hinder the Nicaraguan people's free will to build their own peaceful future at the cost of the lives of thousands of their best sons and a more than 50-year struggle?

He condemned the joint actions of Washington and Tel Aviv against Central America and called attention to the situation in El Salvador, where the military regime's army assassinated more than 30,000 people in less than 3 years despite the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations' willingness to achieve a negotiated political solution to the conflict. To the call for dialogue and negotiation, the United States replies with more advisers and increasing delivery of more sophisticated weapons to the Salvadoran rulers. This exasperating situation can endanger the peace in the area and the whole world, the Cuban foreign minister said. It will be easy to begin a war in Central America, but no one can predict how it will end, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca warned.

DPRK MINISTER CALLS FOR BREAK WITH HONDURAS

PA132021 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1956 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] DPRK Foreign Minister Ho Tam has urged the nonaligned member countries to break political and economic relations with the Honduran regime in order to isolate it internationally because it is the point of U.S. military support in its aggression against Nicaragua. He said that Central America is reaching a dangerous stage due to the aggressive policy of the U.S. Administration, which is trying to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government and stop the advance of the area's liberation movements.

TWO KILLED IN COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ATTACK

PA131526 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Two people were killed and four were wounded as a result of a new attack yesterday by Somozist counterrevolutionary bands from Honduran territory. The attack occurred near Murra, Nueva Segovia Department. Engineer (Alejandro Espinoza) and (Jose Benito Maradiaga) were killed. Engineer (Donald Pellorin) and three other companeros, whose identification has yet to be established, were wounded when the van in which they were traveling was attacked.

STATE SECURITY PRESENTS PRISONERS, WEAPONS

PA140021 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] 1st Lt Oscar Loza, State Security General Directorate chief of operations, this morning charged that the attacks launched from Honduran territory against Nicaragua are intended to overthrow the Sandinist government and establish a Somozist-type regime.

During a news conference at government house, Loza denied statements made by CIA Director William Casey before the U.S. Congress in which he said that the undercover actions against Nicaragua were only intended to stop an alleged flow of weapons from Nicaragua to El Salvador. Loza said the CIA has organized and armed an army of thousands of men under the acronym FDN, or Nicaraguan Democratic Front, that operates from Honduran territory against Nicaragua. He added that Honduran military units act to support the counterrevolutionaries' attack.

Loza reported that in the last weeks of 1982, 182 Nicaraguans were murdered and 72 were wounded. Groups of former Somozists kidnapped 249 people, all of whom were taken to Honduras.

Two counterrevolutionaries captured in Nicaragua, one a kidnapped militia member who escaped and the other a Honduran Army corporal who deserted and fled to Nicaragua, were presented at the news conference. Many portable and heavy weapons were presented, along with communications equipment, uniforms and other material taken from the counterrevolutionaries. Among the material presented were FAL rifles, Chinese-made AK's, M-16's, AR-5's, 60-mm and 81-mm mortars and U.S.-made machineguns. Also among the material taken from the Somozists are C-4 explosive and sophisticated night scopes exclusively made and used by the U.S. Army.

AMBASSADOR IN ROME BERATES ITALIAN PRESIDENT

PM121507 Venice L'UNITA in Italian 7 Jan 83 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Open Letter From Ambassador"]

[Text] Rome -- Nicaraguan Ambassador to Italy Ernesto Fonseca Pasos sent an open letter to President Pertini yesterday. The letter refers to the speech that Pertini delivered on the evening of 31 December, extending his New Year's greetings to the Italian people.

According to the Nicaraguan ambassador, the speech was "followed with interest and approval by most Italians, who rightly see in you and your attitude the representation of stances shared by all of us, such as the defense of human values and democracy."

This is a praiseworthy and harmonious message, the letter continues, but one which contains "the jarring element of a regrettable and gratuitous reference that seriously damages the credibility of my country's people and government. You said as follows: 'In Latin America there are countries where civil rights have been suppressed and where dictatorships assert themselves ruthlessly; Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Argentina.'

"Mr President, you will recall that a year ago I had the honor to present my credentials to you. As we parted you said to me: 'I congratulate the boys of the Nicaraguan revolution because they have overthrown the dicatatorship. I too was a partisan who combated dictatorships. I would like to send a fraternal greeting to all the Sandinista boys who succeeded in achieving this feat.' Mr President, what has happened in a year for you to believe that the Sandinista revolution can be equated with Pinochet?"

Next the ambassador illustrates events and life in his country over the past year -- the damage caused by the floods, the debts left by the Somoza dictatorship, the influence exerted by the United States on the internatinal plane to restrict the flow of aid and the granting of credits to Nicaragua; this has hindered the reconstruction efforts.

On the borders with Honduras an undeclared war has continued with Somoza's former guards, in which 300 Sandinista troops lost their lives. The ambassador speaks of "a siege promoted by the United States" and of "hundreds of espionage flights by Americans over our territory. Might these aggressions not also be a cause for concern for Italian democrats?"

Nevertheless, the letter to Pertini continues, despite the internal and external provocations, the Government of National Reconstruction has continued along its path and toward its objectives; nonalignment, a mixed economy, political pluralism. The ambassador cites some eyewitness reports. One is from Emilio Gabaglio, Italian Confederation of Labor Unions international affairs chief, and former chairman of the Christian Associations of Italian Workers. On 21 November, returning from a visit to Nicaragua, he said: "It is shameful that the EEC does not yet include Nicaragua among the countries that must be helped."

He also cites a statement from Pax Christi International: "Two years after the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship, the Sandinista revolution still maintains its specificity and pragmatism. Nicaragua is not a Marxist country, still less totalitarian." "Furthermore," Ernesto Fonseca Pasos says, "It is worth remembering that as of the start of this year our country is a member of the UN Security Council, which it joined with the support of 105 nations. And between the 10th and the 14th of this month a preparatory conference for the Nonaligned Conference will take place in Managua. It will be attended by 220 delegates representing 70 nations."

Last, the letter points out that the Sandinista revolution rejects the death penalty and life imprisonment; that it has promoted and implemented a mass literacy campaign, still underway, for which it won the UNESCO prize; that it has made possible health care and the elimination of mass malnutrition; that it has distributed the land to the poeple through agrarian reform. The letter concludes with an appeal to President Pertini.

"To protect this original experience of the building of our new society and to permit my country to live in the peace and tranquillity necessary for its development, I would like to ask you, for the sake of the democratic principles and peace that we share, to urge the U.S. Administration to decide as soon as possible to take part in the negotiations in accordance with the plan submitted by Mexico and Venezuela, so as to reach a peace accord in Central America and thus protect human rights in the countries of the area where they are being brutally violated."

COORDINATING BOARD CONSIDERS PARTIES BILL DRAFT

PA140231 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 83 p 1, 12

[Text] The "Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero" Democratic Coordinating Board has officially announced to all its member organizations that it has decided not to participate in discussion of the law on political parties. This was disclosed by Dr Enrique Meneses Pena, secretary of that organization, to a LA PRENSA reporter. He said a seminar on 11 December at the Camino Real Hotel evaluated the law on political parties that was presented by the FSLN to the State Council. Upon the seminar's conclusion, all political parties and unions agreed to sign a public letter addressed to the State Council's board of directors.

The Democratic Coordinating Board deems this document proper, democratic and consistent with the current process. It also says that freedom of expression is necessary for free discussion of the political parties bill.

POLITICAL LEADER BARRED FROM REENTERING COUNTRY

PA080514 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Members of the corrupt clique and of the oocupation army did not allow Dr Miriam Arguello Morales, national coordinator of the Democratic Conservative Party, to reenter our country. Dr Arguello had been vacationing for a few days in Costa Rica. This decision was adopted 4 days after the political leader told the Costa Rican newspaper LA NACION that in our country there should be elections and that the people should be involved in an electoral campaign. During her interview granted to the Costa Rican daily, Dr Arguello said that the Nicaraguan people had fought against Somoza to achieve a compelte democracy and therefore should have free elections. However, when she tried to return to our country on Thursday driving her private car, the members of the immigration office of the Nine did not allow her entry. She then decided to return to San Jose, Costa Rica, even though her family and husband reside in our capital city.

FIDEL GREETS RAUL CASTRO BACK FROM EUROPEAN TOUR

FL131125 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has welcomed army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the party and first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, at the capital's airport. Raul returned to Cuba after a trip to the Soviet Union and Poland.

Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Council of State, also returned on the same flight as part of the delegation which visited Poland at the invitation of the Polish United Workers Party.

CASTRO MEETS WITH SPANISH CULTURE MINISTER

PA131243 Paris AFP in Spanish 2121 GMT 12 Jan 83

[By Alfredo Munoz-Unsain]

[Text] Havana, 12 Jan (AFP) -- Spanish Minister of Culture Javier Solana will return to Madrid today after a 24-hour surprise visit to Havana, where he met with President Fidel Castro for 4 hours as soon as he arrived in Cuba on Tuesday in complete secrecy.

Although the unannounced visit of the Spanish minister surprised diplomats and observers in Havana, because it is the first visit to Cuba by a minister from socialist Felipe Gonzalez' government, knowledgeable sources said that far from being unexpected, it had been planned for 2 weeks. The same sources said that it was a "ground-breaking" visit to learn in detail the positions of each other's governments on international policy, specifically with regard to the search for a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis, starting with El Salvador. Obviously, Solana and Castro also discussed subjects of bilateral interest, the sources said.

Although they omitted specific details, observers in Havana said that an eventual visit by President Castro to Spain and the release of anti-Castro leader Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, whose sentence for infiltration at the head of an armed group in 1964 does not expire until 1994, were only casually discussed.

A pardon for Gutierrez Menoyo, who has both Cuban and Spanish citizenship, had been unsuccessfully requested by Adolfo Suarez' government, which preceded that of Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, which in turn preceded the present socialist Spanish Administration. It was recalled that the Cuban Government recently accepted a request by French President Francois Mitterrand and pardoned another anti-Castro militant imprisoned for a long time, Armando Valladares.

Nevertheless, observers considered it probable that other than bilateral affairs, Central America was the main subject of the talks between Castro and the Spanish minister Solana.

They added that in recent weeks there have been clear indications of a movement of important Latin American countries in search of a concensus for a negotiated solution in the Salvadoran civil war and (?negotiation) of the Honduran-Nicaraguan conflict.

The region as well as the American Hemisphere occupy a priority position in Spanish foreign policy and in French diplomacy. In this respect the French and Spanish foreign ministers, Claude Cheysson and Fernando Moran, said after a working meeting in Paris yesterday that they had "common ambitions for Latin America."

Apparently, Solana was entrusted with the task of negotiating with the Cuban Government -- a mission on which conjecture is being made for lack of precise information -- to take advantage of the fact that he was in the area after an official visit to Mexico that ended last weekend.

Minister Solano also contacted several intellectuals -- Nobel Prize for Literature winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Cuban poet Nicolas Guillen, who were among the few guests -- in addition to Cuban Communist Party and state leaders at the private dinner hosted last night by President Castro.

Solana was today going to tour sites of social and cultural interest in Havana and have lunch with Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart before taking a plane to Madrid tonight.

REPORTAGE ON ALMEIDA'S TOUR THROUGH AFRICA

Visit to Mali

For Bamako Domestic Service coverage of Vice President Juan Almeida Bosque's visit to Mali including dinner toasts, communique, and departure statement see the West Africa, Mali section of the 13 January Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT.

Rejects Withdrawal from Angola

EA131458 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] The Cuban vice president today rejected the U.S. proposal linking the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola with Namibian independence. He said that Cuban troops would remain in Angola unless asked to leave by the Luanda government. He pointed out that there has been no mention of Cuban troops in Angola in the UN resolution on Namibia and wondered why there has not been any request for American troops in other countries of Africa to leave.

The Cuban vice president stated this when he stopped briefly at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, on his way to Mauritius. Both the U.S. and South Africa have insisted that the Cubans withdraw from Angola as a precondition for holding elections and granting independence to Namibia. The proposal has also been strongly rejected by the OAU. At the airport to receive Mr Almeida was the minister for housing and works, Mr Charles Rubia; an assistant minister for foreign affairs, Mr Kamwithi Munyi; and Chief of Protocol Mr Denis Afande.

Arrives in Mauritius

FL132141 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida has arrived in Port Louis, heading a Cuban delegation which is visiting several African countries. At the international airport, Almedia was welcomed by Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth, who expressed satisfaction over the Cuban delegation's visit.

The chief of the Mauritius Government stated that Almeida has contributed with his actions to the changes that have taken place in Cuba, where a new socio-economic order has been established from a neocolonial dictatorship. Elsewhere in his statements, he noted he was gratified with this visit, despite that fact that the Cuban guests had to travel halfway around the world to reach his country, located on the Indian Ocean, and referred to the similarity of positions of the two states in international forums.

During the ceremony at the Port Louis International Airport, Almeida noted that Cuba supports Mauritius' just demands on territorial integrity and on the entire territory's sovereignty.

The Cuban vice president stressed that our country also supports Mauritius' hopes that the Indian Ocean be declared a zone of peace.

After the speeches, Almeida shook hands with members of the Council of Ministers and other high officials of the government of Mauritius as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to that African country. As the motorcade traveled to the official residence where the Cuban delegation is staying, Almeida and those accompanying him were accorded a warm welcome by a large number of people assembled along the route.

FLAVIO BRAVO MEETS WITH KUWAITI LEADERS

FL131150 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government, has been received by Kuwait's Chief of State Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah as part of an official visit to that country. Also taking part in the meeting with the Kuwaiti chief of state were Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of information. Later, Flavio Bravo and his delegation met with Muhammad al-Adasani, chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, and the chiefs of the National Assembly Departments. All of these meetings took place in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality. They discussed topics related to international issues and the development of relations between Cuba and Kuwait.

Flavio Bravo arrived in Kuwait from Algiers after a 5-day visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria where he met with President Chadli Bendjedid.

Holds Talks

For KUNA reports on the activities of the National Assembly delegation, led by Speaker Flavio Bravo, in Kuwait, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 14 January Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SOVIET DELEGATION TO AID SUGAR INDUSTRY

FL132313 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] A Soviet delegation has arrived in this capital to participate in the 11th Meeting of the Permanent Work Group for Soviet-Cuban Cooperation in the Sugar Industry, which is scheduled to take place this week.

USSR Deputy Minister of the Food Industry (B.I. Svynster) heads his country's delegation. Sugar Industry Vice Minister Edison Velazques Lopez heads the Cuban delegation to th meeting, during which the participants will examine joint efforts developed during 1982 and actions to be undertaken in 1983.

The Soviet Union is developing broad economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the sugar industry and lends solidary assistance to the consolidation of the most important Cuban commodity. This assistance includes, among many other aspects, the construction, reconstruction and modernization of sugar mills.

L.A. INTELLECTUALS MEET IN HAVANA TO REVIEW WORK

FL110047 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] The Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America met this afternoon at Casa de las Americas to examine last year's accomplishments, the situation of its national committees and other matters dealing with a second meeting scheduled to take place on a not too distant date.

This is the third meeting of the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of our America, the first of which took place in Havana in September 1981.

At the time, the standing committee was formed by a group of 10 prestigious intellectuals. Of these, the following are visiting our country: Mario Benedetti of Uruguay, (Sussie Castor) of Haiti, (Julio Cortaza) of Argentina, Gabriel Garcia Marquez of Colombia, Pablo Gonzalez Casanova of Mexico, (George Lanning) of Barbados and Miguel Otero Silva of Venezuela.

The meeting is being presided over by Mariano Rodriguez, president of Casa de las Americas.

Send Letter to Bignone

FL131645 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1504 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] The [Standing] Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America has sent a letter to Argentine President Gen Reynaldo Benito Bignone. The letter stated that in view of the disappearance of Argentine citizen (Ricardo Aidar) and based on international standards protecting basic human rights, the committee demands his immediate release and recognition of his detention on the part of Argentine security forces.

The committee's letter concluded with the hope of receiving a complete response which would help the group to inform the public. The letter was drafted yesterday in this capital and was signed by all the members of the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America.

Release Declaration

FL131850 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] The Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America, which met for 3 days in the Casa de las Americas in our capital, released a final declaration saying that the situation in Central America is at its most critical point.

The declaration adds that the war in El Salvador is becoming bloodier every day, thus proving the failure of all the petty formulas plotted by the Reagan administration: from the deceiving elections to the generalized repression. In Guatemala, a psychopathic dictator is intensifying the extermination of the Indian population. In Honduras there is no civilian regime, but only a military one which shamelessly attacks Nicaragua. In Costa Rica the government is becoming more obedient to orders from Washington which, is increasing its efforts to avoid the fulfillment of the Panama Canal Treaty.

The declaration adds that in view of this distressing picture countries like Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama are working very hard in search for an overall political solution interpreting not only the feelings of the people of Central America and the Caribbean but of all the people of Latin America.

In conclusion, the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America calls for a negotiated political solution in El Salvador and for harmony in the entire area. It particularly calls on the U.S. Government to listen to reason, put away haughtiness and arrogance and join this universal call.

CARICOM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING OPENS 13 JAN

FLL32216 Bridgetown CANA in English 2144 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 13, CANA -- The 22nd meeting of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) ministers opened at the Georgetown secretariat here today with Caricom Secretary-General Dr Kurleigh King urging member states to start work immediately on putting together a strategy for negotiating a successor agreement to the Lome 11 Treaty.

This accord, which expires in two years, facilitates cooperation between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) grouping and the European Economic Community (EEC).

"Negotiations with the Europeans are expected to start in the middle of this year. We have had great success so far in maintaining a joint position in the face of pressure from the European Community and even in some instances, in the face of quite serious differences between ourselves and our African and Pacific colleagues," Dr King said.

The Caricom secretary-general, who is leaving the post this year, said procedure for elaborating a Caribbean position on the issue would be put before the council for approval.

"We must act now, otherwise we will find ourselves outmanoeuvred in the difficult negotiations that lie ahead," Dr King cautioned.

Looking at some of the matters to be discussed over the next two days, Dr King noted that council was for the first time about to fulfill its obligation under the Treaty of Chaguaramas to examine the situation of countries forced to impose trade restrictions and to make recommendations to moderate the effect of those restrictions.

"In this connection also the heads of government directed this council to initiate urgent and intensive efforts to maintain the viability of the regional garment industry, including the establishment of such additional measures of protectionism for the industry against extra-regional imports as are considered effective and desirable," Dr King said in his brief address.

The secretary-general pointed out that no council meeting in recent times had taken place in an atmosphere of regional cooperation more conducive to the resolution of thorny issues than the present one.

"In the spirit of Ocho Rios, let us continue our task -- a task which this (?council) faced resolutely in times when doubts were cast upon our will to work together and to survive. Today the task is no less difficult but the will to shoulder it together has never been more firm," Dr King added.

Caricom heads of government met last November in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, in which was their first summit in six years.

St Vincent and the Grenadines Trade Minister Vincent Beache took over as chairman of the council from his St Lucian counterpart, George Mallet.

Beache urged his colleagues not to lose faith in Caricom but to use it as a means of trying to resolve the many problems facing the regional movement.

"In this sense we must be serious and decisions once taken must be binding," he said.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

ACLM WANTS JOINT SECURITY SYSTEM REVEALED

FL101408 Bridgetown CANA in English 2134 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Jan 8, CANA -- The leftwing Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) today called on five eastern Caribbean governments which launched a joint security system late last year to publish the details of the agreement.

Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines signed a memorandum of understanding in Dominica last October, setting up the scheme which is to be headquartered in Barbados. St Lucia initialled the accord at a later date.

"Any security arrangement between several countries which cannot be put before their parliament and people is obviously secret and dangerous," ACLM leader Tim Hector said. Hector charged that the security arrangement was drawn up in the United States and its aim was to keep the various governments in power.

The wideranging security treaty allows the five participating countries to assist each other in threats to national security and immigration control, smuggling, natural and other disasters, among other areas. Barbados laid the agreement in parliament in November.

BARBADOS

STATE TAKES OVER MOBIL OIL OPERATIONS 7 JAN

FL072355 Bridgetown CANA in English 2110 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbardos, Jan 7 CANA -- Barbados today officially took over the operations of the United States oil company, Mobil Exploration Barbados Incorporated and transferred the firm's assets to the state-owned National Petroleum Corporation. Documents authorising the 12 million-dollar U.S. purchase were signed yesterday by NPC chairman, Aaron Truss and Mobil representative.

Mobil had operated Barbados Lone Oil Field in the south eastern parish of St Philip, where production now averages 1,000 barrels a day, about a quarter of Barbados' domestic requirements.

Mr Truss said that in order to continue the operations of exploration and the production of crude oil, a company to be known as Barbados National Oil Company Limited would come into existence today, the day following the closing transaction with Mobil.

Details on the financing of the transfer of assets were not revealed. Last year, parliament had sanctioned a decision by government to borrow some 14 million U.S. dollars from the U.S. bank, Morgan Guaranty Trust, and other financial institutions to facilitate the take-over. He said that arrangements for the total operations of the new company were being worked out between NPC management and the general manager designate, Louis Deverteuil, who has been provided by Petrocanada International.

Petrocanada International has helped Barbados with the formal and final transfer and, according to Mr Truss, it would be providing four top-level specialists to work at the company until the end of this year.

HAITI

BOMB EXPLODES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE; NO CASUALTIES

PA131833 Paris AFP in Spanish 1722 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 13 Jan (AFP) -- A low-power bomb exploded at 0600 GMT today in a drainage ditch outside the Bank of the Republic of Haiti in Port-au-Prince. The explosion claimed no victims nor damage, it was learned here.

JAMAICA

DETAILS OF UK QUEEN'S UPCOMING VISIT REPORTED

FL131750 Bridgetown CANA in English 1613 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan. 13, CANA -- Britian's Queen Elizabeth will address the Jamaican parliament as well as attend other state and civil functions during her four day visit here next month, the Jamaica Government has announced. The Queen will arrive here on February 13 accompanied by her husband, Prince Phillip.

The will receive a red carpet welcome and a 21-gun salute at Kingston's Norman Manley Airport.

Apart from her speech to parliament, the queen will attend a state dinner hosted by the island's governor general, Sir Florizel Glasspole and attend a civil reception in her honour at Sam Sharpe Square (the town centre) in the western city of Montego Bay. No dates were given for these functions.

Additionally, the royal couple will attend cultural displays at Kingston's national stadium and tour the interim headquarters of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), Devon House, which is an old estate great house, formerly used as the national gallery and now being fully restored to reflect its period.

She will also lay a wreath at the war memorial at the National Heroes Park and take part in activities marking the 25th anniversary of the College of Arts, Science and Technology (CAST) here. The queen's visit to Jamaica will be part of a tour also expected to include Bermuda.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES COMPLIANCE WITH IMF

FL071930 Bridgetown CANA in English 1819 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 7, CANA -- Jamaica announced last night that it had passed all the quarterly economic performance tests set for last December 31 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a prerequisite for the island to continue benefitting from a three-year balance of payments support programme. The Bank of Jamaica (central bank) said with the passage of the December tests, it could now drawn down 40 billion dollars (U.S.) this month from the Washington-based lending agency.

Jamaica signed a three-year extended fund facility (EFF) with the IMF in April 1981 for 650 million dollars. The island also received 48 million dollars then in compensatory financing to meet shortfalls in export earnings. The next IMF quarterly test will be at the end of next March, which will complete two years of the programme, which generally calls for a deregulation of the Jamaican economy, the introduction of measures to increase export production, and a tighter rein on government spending.

RELATIONS WITH U.S., NETHERLANDS MAY BE BROKEN

FL132018 Bridgetown CANA in English 1937 GMT 13 Jan 83

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 13, CANA -- The Barbados-based Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) said today that ruling military in Suriname appeared to be preparing to break diplomatic relations with both Holland and the United States.

Burns Bonadie, secretary-treasurer of the regional trade union grouping, said Suriname's recall of its remaining five diplomats from The Hague and the expulsion of two American diplomats from Paramaribo tended to lend support to this theory.

"We understand they are going to break relations with the United States and Holland. We heard there is further escalation of differences between Suriname and the United States," Bonadie told CANA in an interview.

An exiled Suriname trade unionist, now being hosted here by the CCL, said there was no clear indication whether the ruling military would then strengthen their ties with Cuba and the communist world, but this was the general feeling among Surinamers.

Relations between Suriname and Holland, its former colonial ruler, as well as with the United States turned sour last month, in the wake of the reported execution of 15 leading Surinamers, strong advocates of a return to democracy in the South American state. The Army seized power in Suriname in a February 1980 coup.

The United States and Holland both suspended much needed development aid to Suriname as a result of the incident, a move which has angered the military regime of Lt. Colonel Daysi Bouterse.

The Suriname labour leader, who declined to identify himself, questioned the purpose of big Cuban and Soviet Embassy staff in Paramaribo, numbering more than 10 in each case, in view of the small size of the country.

Surinamers, he added, felt that both the Cubans and Russians had some influence over happenings in their country, especially during last month's political disturbances in which the 15 men were shot by the military, which said it had uncovered a Christmas coup plot.

"The feeling of the Suriname people is that what happened in December is not Surinamese, because Surinamese have never killed their brothers in that way in their history," the Suriname trade unionist said in halting English.

Suriname's leading trade unionist, Cyril Daal, former Government Minister Andre Kamperveen, and university of Suriname Chairman Dr Gerard Leckie were among the 15 killed.

Bonadie said the state of emergency imposed by the military following last month's crackdown on its opponents was still in force, and trade union activity was dormant.

He also said the CCL had learnt that the deputy army commander, Major Roy Horb, had tendered his resignation to army strongman Bouterse but the army commander had refused it.

The CCL secretary-treasurer said his organisation was not positive that the 15 men killed last month were brutally tortured before they were shot.

"We now know that the president of the Moederbond, Cyril Daal, had both his arms severed when he was collected for burial," Bonadie said.

He added that Kamperveen, former sports and culture minister, had both his arms broken by the military at the time of his arrest, and his house was then destroyed by rocket and bazooka fire.

The exiled Suriname trade unionist said now was the time for Caribbean governments to know about the type of administration Suriname has and to adopt positions on how they would deal with it.

He said the possibility of a civil war breaking out in the South American country was real because the military knows that Surinamers have a tradition of fighting for their rights.

"There is no freedom anymore. We are in a new slavery and Bouterse knows that the Suriname people have a tradition of fighting for their rights," the Suriname labour leader told CANA.

BOUTERSE EXPELS NETHERLANDS MILITARY ATTACHE

PM131519 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 8 Jan 83 p 1

["Unattributed report: "Netherlands Military Attache Must Leave Bouterse's Suriname"]

[Excerpt] Paramaribo The Hague, 8 Jan -- Netherlands Military Attache in Suriname Colonel D. Van Tussenbroek must leave Paramaribo by 31 January by order of Commander Dasyi Bouterse. A spokesman for the Netherland Foreign Ministry confirmed this yesterday evening.

According to Bouterse, there is no place for Van Tussenbroek in Suriname any longer because the post of Surinamese military attache in the Hague was recently suspended. In the eyes of Dasyi Bouterse, the post has also become meaningless after the suspension of military cooperation between the Netherlands and Suriname. As a result of Bouterse's decision, not only Van Tussenbroek but also all the other Netherlands officers working in Suriname will have to leave the country. Surinamese troops presently receiving training in the Netherlands will also be recalled.